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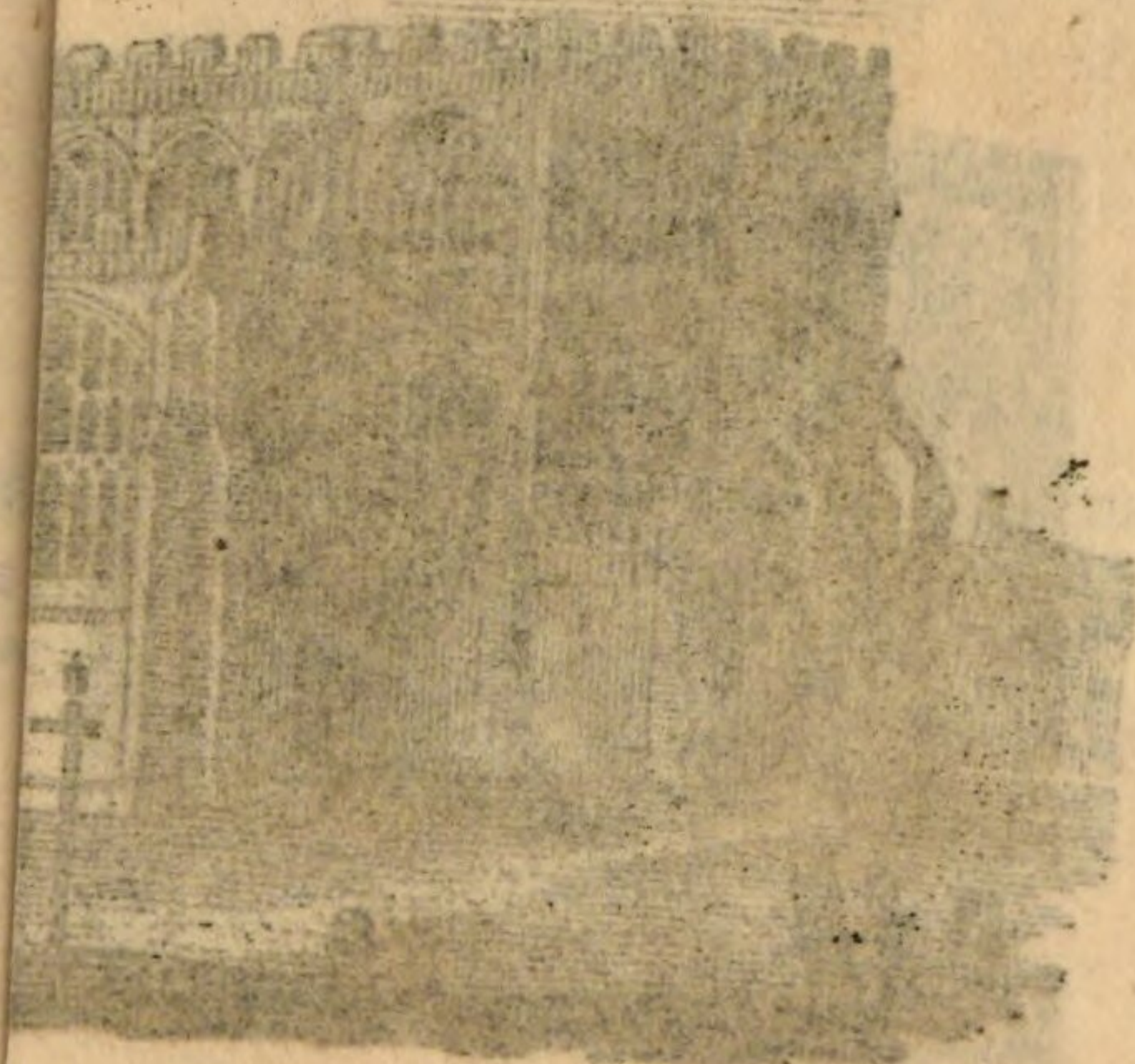
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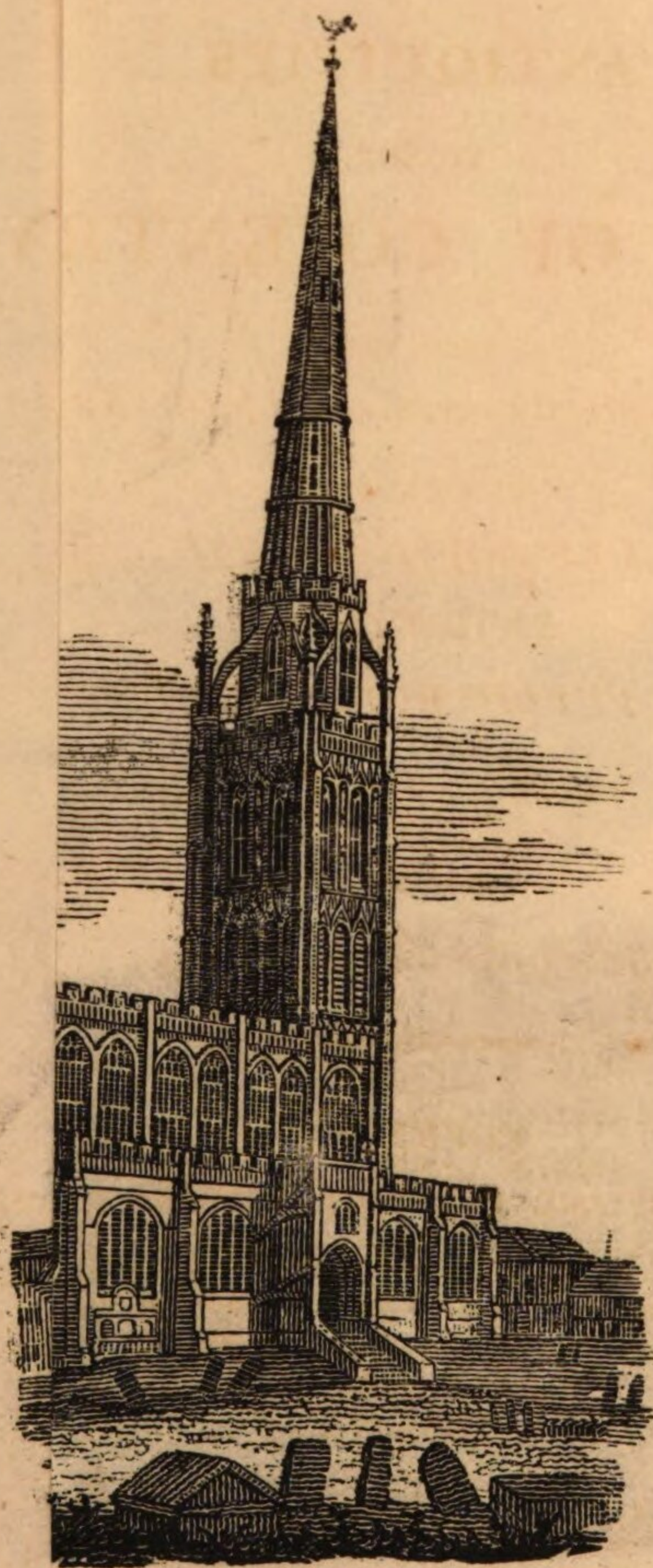
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HISTORY & ANTIQUITIES
OF THE
CITY OF COVENTRY.

THE
CITY OF
COVENTRY
AND ITS
CITY OF

HISTORY & ANTIQUITIES
OF THE
CITY OF COVENTRY.





THE
HISTORY
AND
ANTIQUITIES
OF THE
CITY OF COVENTRY,

FROM THE
Earliest authentic Period to the present Time:

COMPREHENDING,
A DESCRIPTION OF THE
ANTIQUITIES,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES, &c.


Embellished with Engravings.


COVENTRY:

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CITY OF COVENTRY,

Earliest authentic record to the present time

A DESCRIPTION OF THE

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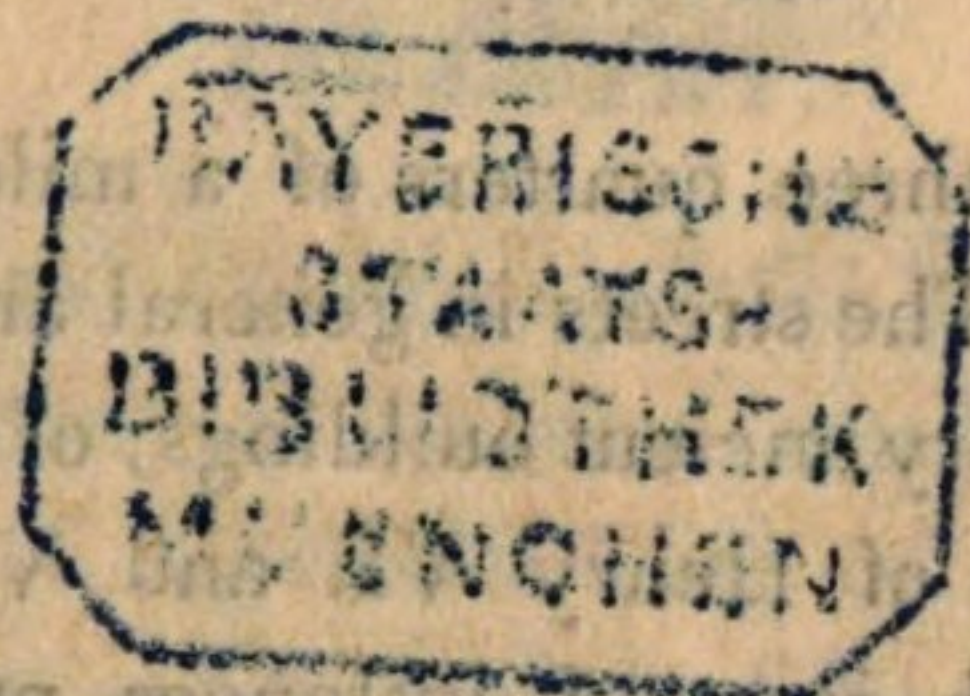
THE Compiler of the following sheets thinks it a duty incumbent upon him to state his reasons to the Public for publishing the History and Antiquities of the City of Coventry.

It has long been universally acknowledged, that a re-publication of the remarkable events which have formerly occurred in this ancient City, in addition to those which might be collected of a later date, without entering too much into minute and unnecessary details, would be at once highly interesting and useful. To gratify this general opinion, the Compiler flatters himself that in presenting this small volume to the public, he has, in some measure, contributed to the general information of the enquiring traveller, and afforded to the inhabitant of this City, a manual of occasional reference and entertainment.

The principal authorities from which this work is selected (in many instances nearly verbatim), are Thomas's Edition of Dugdale's Warwickshire and Pennant's Journey from Chester to London. The extracts from the former are denoted by the mark ^b, from the latter by the letter ^a; other references will

be noticed at the bottom of the page. The Compiler, therefore, takes no responsibility upon himself for the authenticity of the facts hereafter recorded—He refers his readers to the authorities from which he has extracted them.

From the preceding observations, it will appear, that great elegance of language is not to be expected in a work, which is, professedly, a mere compilation from well-authenticated authors—and which has been arranged with the sole intention of affording that information to many, which, at present, few only have it in their power to obtain. To the praise of an elegant and accomplished historian, therefore, the writer of these pages advances no pretensions: He will be amply satisfied with the more humble character of a faithful and diligent Compiler.



HISTORY
OF THE
CITY OF COVENTRY.

COVENTRY lies within the hundred of Knightlow; one of the four districts into which the County of Warwick is divided—and is situated 91 miles N. N. W. of London, and in latitude 52. 23. N. longitude 1. 30. W. Greenwich.

The time of the foundation of this great and ancient City is unknown. By the addition of *tre* (a town), it should seem as if the place had been inhabited by the Britons, before the Saxons added *Coven* to it (from the word convent), as is conjectured, from a Saxon nunnery very anciently established here. The scite of the old town is supposed to have been on the North side of the present, because great and extensive foundations have been discovered near the spot which is now denominated St. Nicholas's Church-yard.^a

Coventry is on most sides, seated on gently sloping ground; its length from Hill-street Gate to Gosford

Gate, is about three quarters of a mile, exclusive of the suburbs. The streets in general are narrow, and composed of very ancient buildings, of as early a date as the reigns of Henry VI. and VII. the upper stories of which, in many instances, project one over the other. By the appearance of the whole, it is very evident, that it never endured the calamity of fire; an evil, which though generally and justly deprecated, is usually the cause of future improvement.^a

The City is watered by the Radford and Sherborn brooks, which from North to South meet within, and after a short current, bound the North-eastern parts without, the walls.^a

The existence of a convent here in early times, depends on the authority of John Rous, and Leland, the latter of whom says, that it was first founded by King Canute; whilst the former states, that when the traitor Edric invaded Mercia, and destroyed several towns in Warwickshire, in 1016, he also burnt the nunnery in this City, of which a holy virgin, St. Osburg, had been abbess.^a

In the beginning of the reign of Edward the Confessor, Leofric, the fifth Earl of Mercia, and his Countess Godiva (called also Godeva, Godina, and Goditha), founded a monastery on the ruins of St. Osburg's nunnery, to which they were great benefactors.^b

The first of the ancestors, of this Leofric, of whom any historical account is known, was Earl of Chester, in the time of Ethelbald King of Mercia; above 1100 years ago.—The period of his advancement to the Earldom of Mercia (which contained most of the Counties in this midland part of the kingdom), is not exactly known. In the time of King Ethelred, he was stiled Leofricus Comes. In the year 1018, he was in high favour with King Canute, and became Captain-General of his forces. In the time of Hardicanute, he was called Merciorum Comes; but in the beginning of the reign of Edward the Confessor, he was only stiled Comes Herefordiensium.^b

That his power was very great in those times, appears from the following circumstances:—After the death of Canute, a dispute taking place respecting his successor in the kingdom, Leofric, with the Barons on the North of the Thames, advanced Harold, surnamed Harefoot, son of Canute to the crown; and afterwards, Hardicanute being dead, he was one of the principal persons who raised Edward the Confessor, at that time in Normandy, to the throne, and afterwards defended him from the malice of Earl Godwyn. He married Godiva, a most beautiful and devout lady, sister to ——— Thorold, Sheriff of Lincolnshire, and founder of Spalding Abbey.^b

At that period, Coventry must have been a very considerable place, and its number of inhabitants great; otherwise the fair Godiva could never have

made so great a merit of riding naked through the town, to redeem it from the intolerable taxes* and grievances under which it at that time laboured. The cause, according to Dugdale, must have equalled the deed. Her husband long resisted her importunity in behalf of the City, on account of the profits which accrued from it to himself: at length he wished to silence her by the following strange proposal; that if she would ride naked on horseback from one end of the town to the other, in the sight of all the people, he would grant her request.—“But (added she) will you give me leave to do so?” After she had obtained his permission, the noble Lady upon an appointed day, got on horseback naked, and being happy in fine flowing locks, rode decently covered to her very feet with her lovely tresses; and having thus performed her journey, returned with joy to her husband, who consequently, granted to the inhabitants a charter of freedom, in the words of Jorvalensis, from servitude, evil customs, and exactions. The history was preserved in a picture of the Earl and Countess, in a South window of Trinity Church, about the time of Richard II. He held a charter of freedom in his right hand, with the following inscription upon it:—^b

I Luriche (Leofric) for the love of thee,
Doe make Coventre tol-free.

* The great Lords to whom the towns belonged under the Anglo-Saxons, had then the privilege of imposing taxes which can now be only exercised by the Representatives of the people in Parliament.

Legends say, that previous to her riding through the City, all the inhabitants were ordered, on pain of death, to shut themselves up in their houses*; but the curiosity of a certain taylor, it should seem, overcoming his fear, he ventured to take a single peep; and this circumstance is commemorated to the present day, by a figure called *Peeping Tom*, who appears looking out of a window, or opening in a wall, in Smithford-street.^a

On a minute examination of this figure, it is found to be a very ancient full-length oak statue of a man in armour, with an helmet on his head, greaves on his legs, and sandals on his feet; to favour the posture of his leaning out of window, the arms have been cut off at the elbows. From the attitude in which it was originally carved, there is reason to believe, that it was either intended for Mars, the fabulous god of war, or some other warlike chieftain. It is absurd to suppose, that the figure was ever exhibited in this habit and situation, to resemble a mechanic; his wig and long neckcloth are characteristic of the reign of Charles II. for before the Restoration, long perukes were not worn in this kingdom.

To this day, the regard of Godiva towards this City, is occasionally remembered by a procession, on the Friday, in Trinity week†; and a charming

* This is in direct opposition to Dugdale.

† On this day an annual fair commences, which lasts eight days; it was granted by Henry III. in 1217.

fair one still graces the procession, not literally like the good Countess, with her own dishevelled hair, &c. but in linen closely fitted to her limbs, and of a colour emulating their complexion,^a

This public Exhibition, it is supposed, was first instituted in the reign of Charles II.

Leofric was a great benefactor to several other religious houses, as well as to this City, to all of which he gave a variety of rich ornaments; and departing this life, at his house, in Bromley, on the 2d of September, 1057, at an advanced age, he was interred at the monastery in Coventry, to which he had bequeathed his body, with a great quantity of gold and silver.^b

The Countess Godiva having succeeded in persuading Leofric to found the magnificent monastery already-mentioned, was determined to contribute to its support the whole of her treasures; and accordingly, her gold and silver were converted into crosses, images of saints, and other curious ornaments, for that purpose. She also built the monastery of Stow, near Lincoln, dedicated it to the Blessed Virgin, and endowed it with three lordships; giving possession of them, as her charter expresses, by a beautiful jewel and rich bracelets.—To this ceremony Edward the Confessor and many of the nobility were public witnesses.^b

The time of the death of Godiva is not precisely known; neither do the estates which Leofric possessed, appear in any record except Domesday Book*. The possessions in this County, which that record mentions her to have holden in Edward the Confessor's time, were held of the Conqueror, at the time of his general survey, by one Nicholas.— Of these, Coventry was said to contain five hides†, and as it included a mill, with woods extending two miles in length, and the same distance in breadth, it was valued at 11*l*.^b

After the conquest, the Lordship of this City fell, by the marriage of Lucia (who was daughter to the grandson of Leofric) to the Earls of Chester. Her husband, Randle Meschine, granted the inhabitants many very valuable privileges, and bestowed great part of the City upon the monks. When Henry III. took the Earldom of Chester into his hands, the remainder of Coventry became the property of William de Albany, Earl of Arundel, in right of his wife Mabil, daughter of Kevelioc. On the death of Hugh, Earl of Arundel, in 1243, Roger de Montalt, who had married Cecily, that Earl's youngest sister, became possessed of Coventry. It was afterwards granted by his grandson Robert, in

* Domesday Book was compiled at the command of William the Conqueror, between the years 1081 and 1086.

† A hide was as much land as a plough could till in a year.

default of issue, to Isabel, queen mother of Edward III. with remainder first to John of Eltham (afterwards Earl of Cornwall), and then to Edward King of England. Thus it was annexed to the Earldom of Cornwall, and became henceforth more immediately the object of royal favour.^a

In the year 1285, the Burgesses and inhabitants received letters patent, dated Aug. 3, from Edward I. which granted them a toll, for the space of three years, upon all saleable commodities that should be brought into their City from the following Michaelmas, towards defraying the expence of paving the town, viz.:—For every horse-load of corn, they were empowered to receive a halfpenny; and the same sum for every horse, mare, ox, cow, &c.—It appears, however, that twenty years afterwards, this paving was not completed; for in 1305, another patent was given them to levy the same toll upon the same articles; this latter patent was granted to the *Bailiffs* and good men of Coventry; whereas the former was made to the *Burgesses* and good men of Coventry.—From this date the institution of Bailiffs of the City, appears to take its rise.^b

In 1333, the inhabitants of Coventry were licensed to erect a common conduit, 20 feet long, and 10 feet broad, in any street which they might deem most convenient for the purpose. And in two years afterwards, they obtained a grant to exempt themselves

and their heirs from the payment of tolls for all their merchandise throughout the kingdom; in consideration of which circumstance they paid a fine of 10 marks.—At that time, Coventry was not reputed a City, or Borough, because it had never contributed above an 100 marks to the state, when a fifteenth was levied.^b

REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES.*

IN the reign of Edward III. Coventry was in a very flourishing situation. This King, in 1344, at the instance of Queen Isabel (who had an estate at Cheylesmore for life; and also in consideration, that the reversion of their property was vested in Edward, then Prince of Wales), granted letters patent, dated January 20, constituting in this City, a Body Corporate, consisting of a Mayor and two Bailiffs, whom the inhabitants were to choose annually from themselves.—Their patent decreed also, that they should have power to settle all existing differences; that they should possess a common seal; and that a prison should be erected for the confinement of malefactors. These liberties were purchased by twelve inhabitants of Coventry, several years before any officer had been appointed as Mayor of the place.

* These Occurrences are taken from Dugdale, manuscripts, &c.

In the year 1347, JOHN WARD was the first Mayor of this City.

In 1349, JORDAN SHEPEY the mayor, built *Jordan-Well*, which was called *after his name*.—He died in his mayoralty.

In the same year, there was a great rain, without the exception of a single fair day, from Christmas to Midsummer.

In 1350, an alarming pestilence raged in this City, and throughout the whole realm; the twentieth person scarcely remained to bury the dead.

The walls of Coventry were not begun before 1355, by virtue of a licence granted by Edward III. 27 years before; nor were they finished in less than 40 years. The first stone was laid by Richard Stoke, the Mayor, at a place called New-Gate, near to the White Friars. The work, it is supposed, did not proceed very rapidly at first, for Edward the Black Prince, afterwards granted them a licence to enclose the City within a wall of lime and stone. The Citizens considering the great expence of thus fortifying the town, obtained a licence, bearing date Nov. 3, 1364, to tax all the inhabitants, excepting the clergy. Another licence, dated July 3, 1366, empowered the Mayor and Bailiffs, &c. to levy and receive the following duties, for the ensuing five years, towards defraying the expence of the walls:—For every tun

of wine sold in the town, 2s.; for every quarter of malt, 4d.; for every ox, 4d.; for every hog and calf, 1d.; and for every sheep a farthing. About four years after this, the publicans complaining to the King of the severe pressure of these duties, were exempted from future payment.

In 1359, the mayor (WILLIAM BOTONER), gave an eagle of brass to St. Michael's Church.

In 1363, there was a great frost, which began on St. Andrew's day and lasted till the 13th of April.

In 1370, there were some commotions in this City, the inhabitants were probably unwilling to contribute towards the charge of the City walls; upon this subject, complaints were made to the King in the course of the next year.

In 1373, William and Adam Botonor began the structure of St. Michael's steeple, at their own expence; it was twenty-one years in building, and cost annually, 100*l*. Report states, that a brass table was found in the Church, with the following inscription, in old English characters:—

William and Adam built the tower,
Ann and Mary built the spire,
William and Adam built the church,
Ann and Mary built the quire.

Richard II. in 1377, confirmed to the Citizens, the enjoyment of all the privileges granted them by the charters of Henry II. and Henry III. and of Ed-

ward II. and Edward III. In the same year, he appointed Justices of the Peace for this City.

In 1380, John Ball, a seditious priest, was taken by the inhabitants of this City, and carried to St. Albans, where he was hanged, drawn, and quartered.

In 1384, the sword was carried *after* the mayor, by order of the King, because he had not done justice.

Richard II. in 1385, ratified the charter of Edward III. for building the walls; he likewise gave them permission to dig as much stone from his park, in Cheylesmore, as would enable them to build a gate, near the Grey Friars, and towards this expence, the Mayor and Bailiffs for the ensuing five years, were to possess the right of taxing woollen cloths, to the value of 24*l*.

In 1388, the King forgave the town their offences, and the sword was again carried *before* the mayor; the King also granted, that the chief magistrate should not go before the Barons to take his oath, and that none of the inhabitants should be required to gather tenths or fifteenths out of the liberties of the City.

In 1392, Richard II. gave as much stone out of his quarries in the park, at Cheylesmore, as enabled the Citizens to build the great gate, in Spon-street. Towards the latter end of his reign, he granted the waste lands, near Coventry, for repairing the

walls, gates, &c. of the City. By this patent, the Mayor, Recorder, and four of the principal inhabitants, were constituted Justices of the Peace; and in future were separated entirely from the Magistrates of the County of Warwick.

In 1394, JOHN CROSSE the mayor, built the font in St. Michael's church; and, with John Onley, Robert Shipley, and others, afterwards began the building of St. Mary's Hall.

In 1395, St. Michael's steeple was finished.

In 1396, JOHN ONLEY was mayor, who was born in Calais after it was taken by the English; his father was standard-bearer to King Edward III.; and the son was twice mayor both of Calais, and Coventry.

In this reign of Richard II. (September, 1397), a single combat was to have been fought on Gosford-green, near this City, between the Duke of Hereford (afterwards Henry IV.) and the Duke of Norfolk (Thomas Mowbray). The former, it was said, betrayed a private conversation, in which Mowbray is represented to have used several expressions of a treasonable nature. The accusation was denied; and, according to the barbarous usage of those times, Mowbray demanded the privilege of acquitting himself by single combat. Each of the Dukes, agreeably to the laws of chivalry, threw down his glove,

which was taken up and sealed before the King (a circumstance which was supposed to prevent all future denial of the challenge). The King appointed Coventry for the place of combat, and caused a vast and magnificent theatre to be erected for that purpose, on Gosford-green. The rival Dukes made every requisite preparation, and particularly in that essential article of armour. The particulars of this proceeding, as represented by Froissart, shew the preference which was then given to *foreign* armourers. The following is the account, as it is translated by Sir John Bouchier Lord Berners:—^a

“These two Lordes made provision for that was necessarye for them for their battayle. The Earl of Derby* sent his messangers in to Lombardy, to the Duke of Myllayn, Sir Galeas, for to have armure at his pleasure. The Duke agreed to the Erles desyre, and caused the knight that the Erle had sent thyder whose name was Fraunces, to se a'll the Dukes armorye; and whan the knight had chosen such, as he lyked, than the Duke furthermore, for love of the Erle of Derby, he sent four of the best armourers that were in Lombardy to ye Erle into Englande with the knight to thentent yt thei shuld-arme & make armure accordyng to the Erles entent. The Erle Marshal, on his part, sent in to Almayn, and in to other places, to provyde him for the journey. The charge of these two Lords was greate. But the Erle of Derby was at mooste charge.”

The armour of the great men in those days was uncommonly splendid and expensive; usually inlaid with gold and silver, and ornamented with most elegant figures and devices. The combatants placed

* The Duke of Hereford.

their reliance totally on the skill of the armourer; and cleared themselves, by oath, from holding any commerce with incantations, or rendering their armour or bodies invulnerable by any charm. Be their cause ever so bad, they must determine to die like good christians; they disavowed, therefore, all dependence on the power of Satan, and supplicated the prayers of all pious spectators.

Add proof unto my armour with thy prayers,
And with thy blessings steel my lance's point*.

Holinshead thus minutely describes the pomp and ceremony preceding the resolution taken by the unfortunate monarch, Richard II. which cost him, in the end, both his crown and his life:—

“ At the time appointed, the King came to Coventrie, where the two Dukes were readie, according to the order prescribed therein†; comming thither in great arraie, accompanied with the lords and gentlemen of their linages. The King caused a sumptuous scaffold, or theater, and roiall listes there to be erected and prepared. The Sundaye before they should fight, after dinner, the Duke of Hereford came to the King (being lodged about a quarter of a mile without the towne, in a tower that belonged to Sir William Bagot) to take his leave of him. The morrow after,

* Shakespeare. Richard II. in a speech of Hereford on this occasion, to John of Gaunt.

† Henry Duke of Hereford advanced from Baginton Castle, towards the place appointed, upon his white courser, barded with blue and green velvet, beautifully embroidered with swans and antelopes (made by eminent goldsmiths), and armed at all points.—Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, set out from Caludon Castle on a horse, barded with crimson velvet, embroidered with lions of silver and mulberry-leaves (alluding to the name of *Mowbray*, mulberry).

being the daie appointed for the combat, about the spring of the daie, came the Duke of Norfolke to the court, to take leave likewise of the King. The Duke of Hereford armed him in his tent, that was set up neere to the lists; and the Duke of Norfolke put on his armor betwixt the gate & the barrier of the towne, in a beautifull house, having a faire perclois of wood towards the gate, that none might see what was doone within the house.

“The Duke of Aumarle that daie, being High Constable of England, and the Duke of Surrie, Marshall, placed themselves betwixt them, well armed and appointed. And when they saw their time, they first entered into the listes with a great companie of men, apparelled in silke sendall, mbrodered with silver both richlie and curiouslie; everie man having a tipped staffe, to keepe the field in order. About the houre of prime came to the barriers of the listes the Duke of Hereford, mounted on a white courser, barded with green & blew velvet, imbrodered sumptuouslie with swans and antelops of goldsmiths woorke, armed at all points. The Constable and Marshall came to the barriers, demanding of him what he was: he answered, ‘I am Henrie of Lancaster, Duke of Hereford, which am come hither to doo mine indevor against Thomas Mowbraie, Duke of Norfolke, as a traitor, untrue to God, the King, his realme, and me.’—Then incontinentlie he sware upon the holie Evangelists, that his quarrel was true & just; and upon that point he required to enter the lists. Then he put up his sword, which before he held naked in his hand, and, putting down his visor, made a crosse on his horsse, and with speare in hand entered into the lists, and descended from his horsse, and set him downe in a chaire of greene velvet, at the one end of the listes, and there reposed himselfe, abiding the comming of his adversarie.

“Soone after him entred into the field, with great triumph, King Richard, accompanied with all the peeres of the realme; and in his companie was the Earle of Saint Paule, which was come out of France, in post, to see this challenge performed. The King had there above ten thousand men in armour, least some fraie or tumult might rise amongst his

nobles, by quarelling or partaking. When the King was set in his seat, which was richly hanged and adorned, a King at Armes made open proclamation, prohibiting all men, in the name of the King, and of the High Constable and Marshall, to enterprise or attempt to approch, or touch any part of the lists, upon paine of death, except such as were appointed to order or marshall the field. The proclamation ended, another Herald cried, 'Behold here Henrie of Lancaster Duke of Hereford, appellant, which is entred into the lists roiall, to doo his devoir against Thomas Mowbraie Duke of Norfolke, defendant, upon paine to be found false and recreant.'

"The Duke of Norfolke hovered on horssebacke at the entrie of the lists, his horsse being barded with crimosen velvet, imbrodered richlie with lions of silver and mulberie trees; and when he had made his oth before the Constable and Marshall, that his quarrell was just & true, he entred the field manfullie, saieng alowd, 'God aid him that hath the right;' and then he departed from his horsse, & sate him downe in his chaire, which was of crimosen velvet, courtined about with white and red damaske. The Lord Marshall viewed their speares, to see that they were of equall length, and delivered the one speare himselfe to the Duke of Hereford, and sent the other unto the Duke of Norfolke by a Knight. Then the Herald proclamed, that the traverses & chaires of the champions should be remooved, commanding them, on the King's behalfe, to mount on horssebacke, & addresse themselves to the battell and combat*.

"The Duke of Hereford was quicklie horssed, and closed his bavier, and cast his speare into the rest; and when the trumpet sounded, set forward couragiously towards his enemy six or seven pases. The Duke of Norfolke was not fullie set forward, when the King cast downe his warder, and the Heralds cried 'Ho, ho.' Then the King caused their speares to be taken from them, and commanded them to repaire againe to their chaires; where they remained two long houres, while the King and his Councell deliberatlie

* Holinshead's Chron. 494.

consulted what order was best to be had in so weightie a cause. Finallie: after they had devised, and fullie determined what should be doone therein, the Heralds cried 'Silence;' and Sir John Bushie, the King's Secretarie, read the sentence and determination of the King and his Councell, in a long roll; the effect wherof was, that Henrie Duke of Hereford should, within fifteene daies, depart out of the realme, and not to returne before the terme of ten yeares were expired, except by the King he should be repealed againe, and this upon paine of death: and that Thomas Mowbraie Duke of Norfolke, bicause he had sowed sedition in the relme by his words, should likewise avoid the realme, and never to returne againe into England, nor approach the borders or confines thereof, upon pain of death; and that the King would staie the profits of his lands, till he had levied thereof such summes of monie as the Duke had taken up of the King's treasurer, for the wages of the garrison of Calis, which were still unpaid.

"When these judgements were once read, the King called before him both the parties, and made them to sweare that the one should never come in place where the other was, willinglie, nor keepe any companie together in any forren region: which oth they both received humblie, and so went their waies. The Duke of Norfolke departed sorrowfullie out of the relme into Almanie, and at the last came to Venice, where he, for thought and melancholie, deceased; for he was in hope (as writers record) that he should have beene borne out in the matter by the King; which, when it fell out otherwise, it greeved him not a little. The Duke of Hereford tooke his leave of the King at Eltham, who there released foure yeares of his banishment; so he tooke his jornie over into Calis, and from thence went into France, where he remained.

"A woonder it was to see what number of people ran after him, in everie towne and street where he came, before he tooke the sea, lamenting and bewailing his departure; as who would saie, that when he departed, the onelie shield, defense, and comfort of the commonwealth was vaded and gone."

In 1404, Henry IV. held a Parliament, in the Great Chamber of the Priory, in this City, at which no lawyer was suffered to be present. It was stiled *Parliamentum Indoctorum*, from its inveteracy to the clergy; whence it was also called the *Laymens Parliament*. At that time, the kingdom was in imminent danger from the incursions of the Welch, Scotch, &c.; and it was thought by some, that their best method of supplying the King with money to resist these invasions, was to divest the church of its temporal possessions. This produced a violent dispute between the clergy and the laity; the latter alledging, that they had often served the King in person against his enemies, spent their estates, and exposed themselves to many dangers, whilst the clergy sat idle at home, and were of no service to him. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in reply, said, that the clergy had assisted as much as the laity, in yielding up their property; that their tenants served personally in the wars as well as their's; and that masses and prayers were offered, day and night, to implore God's blessing for the King and his army. The Speaker (Sir John Cheyne), with a stern countenance said, that he valued not the prayers of the church. To this, the Archbishop replied, that it might easily be seen what would become of the kingdom, when devout addresses to the Almighty were so slighted. Much altercation ensued; but the Archbishop persisting resolutely in the defence of

the church, preserved it, at that time, from the impending storm.

In 1406, JOHN BOTONER, the mayor, caused the streets of Coventry to be paved.

In 1407, there was a great frost, which began in November and lasted fifteen weeks.

In 1411, JOHN HORNEBY, the mayor, arrested the Prince (afterwards Henry V.), at the Priory, in this City.

In 1416, the Religious Pageants, and the game of Hock Tuesday, founded on the massacre of the Danes by the English, Nov. 3, 1002, were invented.
—See *Percy's Reliques*.

In 1421, in an affray of the inhabitants, the gardens at Cheylesmore, were destroyed.

In 1422, the first Cross was built in Cross Cheaping.

In the former reign, the Lollards were become a numerous party, which appeared extremely dangerous to the church, and even formidable to the civil authority. In 1423, there arose a disturbance in this City, from the enthusiasm of these sectaries, who had collected a great audience together in the little park.

“At the feast of St. Andrew, John Grace, heremyte, and sithence said he was a monke, after that a friere, and sithence a recluse, come into this Citye, and preched five daies to

gethur in the lytull p'ke, seying that he was lycentiate and licence had to preche of the Bishops' minysters of thys Diocese; and he had preched at Lichfield ther in the Close, among the canons, three days togethur; and after he preched at Brymyngham, and after at Wallsall, and after yt at Collyshull, and so come down hithur; the which John Grace was, at that tyme, a famous man amongst the peopull."

It was, however, contended, that he was not licentiate, as he had constantly asserted in his discourses: He was, therefore, opposed by Richard Croseby, the prior of St. Mary's Church, in this City, and by John Bredon, of the Grey-friars; this event created no small confusion in the neighbourhood, and endangered the lives of both the parties opposed to this sectary. This disturbance reached the ears of the King, and a letter was written from the Council, then in London, to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Commons, of this City, to enquire into the affair, and preserve the peace.—*Hist. of Lichfield.*

At the instance of the Earl of Warwick, the mayor committed the above John Grace to the gaol, in this City.

In 1429, bells were first hung in St. Michael's steeple.

In 1436, King Henry VI. came to Coventry, and kept Christmas at Kenilworth.

In 1443, Robert Milburne died, who gave several mills to Trinity Church.

In 1446, John Heires and William Lingham were hanged for robbing St. Mary's Hall.

In this year, a Bishop was installed in this City.

In 1447, a dispute took place on Corpus Christi Eve, between Sir Humphrey Stafford and Sir Richard Harcourt, when Sir Humphrey's son was slain, with many others on both sides.—This disturbance happened near Broad-gate, in this City.

In 1450, King Henry VI. heard mass in St. Michael's Church, and presented a golden cloth.

Henry VI. in 1451, granted that this City, with the villages of Radford, Keresley, Foleshill, Exhall, Anstey, Calludon, Wyken, Henley-la-Wode-end, Stoke Bigging, Whitley, Pinley, Hearsall, Horewell, Harnall and Woberley; part of Sow, and Stivichall, all of which were within the County of Warwick, should from the Feast of St. Nicholas (Dec. 6,) next following the date of the charter, be a distinct County of itself, and be henceforth called the County of the City of Coventry.—It enacted, that the Mayors and Bailiffs should be elected in the same manner as in the reign of Edward III; that the Bailiffs should in future act as Sheriffs; that the Coroner of the City, should likewise preside over the County; that the Mayor should be Clerk of the Market, and Steward and Marshal of the King's Household; and lastly, that the Citizens, &c. should be free from tolls for their

merchandize throughout England and Ireland, and enjoy all the privileges possessed by their predecessors. This charter was confirmed by Edward IV.

In 1455, King Henry and Queen Margaret came to Coventry, and lay at the Priory.

On September 20, 1459, another Parliament was held in this City, in the Chapter House of the Priory, by Henry VI. which was called *Parliamentum Diabolicum*, on account of the multitude of attainders passed against Richard Duke of York, and many others, but these attainders were all annihilated in the succeeding Parliament.

In 1465, King Edward IV. and his Queen kept their Christmas at Coventry.

In 1468, the Earl of Rivers and his Son were beheaded on Gosford Green.

In 1469, one Elipane was beheaded, and his head set on a pole on Bablake Gate.

During the time of the civil war, in 1470, Richard the great Earl of Warwick, came from London to Coventry, upon Midlent Sunday, brought with him ordnance, and other warlike stores, and continued here until after Palm Sunday.—During this time, Edward IV. came from Leicester to Comb Abbey, and on the next day, attempted to enter the City from Gosford-green; but finding the Earl kept it

against him, he passed by, and lodging that night at Warwick, marched from thence to London.—Shortly afterwards, he vanquished his enemies at the battle of Barnet, where the *stout* Earl of Warwick lost his life.—Edward having re-instated himself on the throne, returned to Coventry, and amply repaid the insult offered him by the Citizens. He deprived them of their privileges, and made them pay 500 marks for their recovery.

In 1471, London bridge was set on fire by 17,000 insurgents from Kent.—The leaders of this insurrection were afterwards beheaded in this City, by order of the King.

In 1474, Prince Edward, for the first time, came to this City, and was presented with a cup and an 100*l*.—He was one of the godfathers to the mayor's (RICHARD BRAYTOFT) child. His Father came soon after, and at Easter kept St. George's feast here.

In 1477, Prince Edward came a second time to this City, and was made a brother of the different Guilds of Corpus Christi and St. Trinity; he kept his court at Cheylesmore.

The custom of riding the liberties of this City was now introduced.

In 1478, 3,300 persons died of a pestilence in the City and County of Coventry.

The mass of Jesus began in Trinity Church about this time.

In 1480, there was a tumult among the inhabitants of this City; they rang the common bell, and opened a pasture which had been for some time before enclosed.

This year, the old sword and the best mace were stolen from the mayor's house.

In 1483, a dispute arose between the mayor and the bakers of this City; the bakers, however, fled, and took refuge at Baginton Castle, the day after Candlemas day.

The same year, Richard III. came to this City, at the festival of Corpus Christi, to see the plays; he kept his Christmas at Kenilworth.

In 1485, Henry VII. with his army, came to this City, after his signal victory over Richard III. at Bosworth field, and lodged at the mayor's house. The mayor (ROBERT ONLEY) presented him with a cup and an 100*l*. and received the dignity of knight-hood in return.

In the same year, the Bishop of Chester came to this City, and sentenced several persons, charged with heresy, to carry faggots about Cross Cheaping, on a market day.

In 1487, Henry VII. the Archbishop of Canter-

bury, the Bishop of Winchester, and many other Lords, spiritual & temporal, held a council in this City.

In the same year, one Thomas Harrington (an organ-maker's son, at Oxford, who had called himself the son of the Duke of Clarence) was brought a prisoner to this City, on the Wednesday after St. Peter's day; he was afterwards beheaded on the Conduit, opposite the Bull, and buried at the Grey Friars.

In 1488, the great bell, called Jesus bell, was placed in St. Michael's steeple.

In 1491, a tax was levied to defray the expedition into France; on which account, this City paid 1100*l*.

The play of St. Catherine was performed in the Little Park.

In 1492, Henry VII. with his Queen came to this City, to see the plays performed by the Grey Friars, and much commended them.

In 1495, Sir Henry Mumford, and Sir Robert Mallerie, received sentence of death for treason, at London, they were afterwards brought to this City, and beheaded under Binley gallows.—Mumford's head was placed on Bablake-gate, and Mallerie's on Bishop-gate; their bodies were buried at the Grey-friars.

In 1497, Prince Arthur came to this City, and was presented with a cup and an 100*l*.

In 1499, Henry VII. and his Queen came to this City, and were made a brother and sister of Trinity Guild.

In 1506, Bablake Alms House was erected by Mr. THOMAS BOND, formerly a mayor of this City.

In 1507, the mayor (RICHARD SMYTH), caused the bakers to pay 13s. 4d. to the company of smiths, towards their pageants.

In 1510, the *old* Cross was taken down.

The same year, Henry VIII. and his Queen, came to this City; three pageants were displayed in honour of their presence—one at Jordan-well, with the nine orders of angels; one at Broad-gate, with many beautiful females; and, another at Cross Cheaping, with a stage performance; from hence they passed to the Priory.

The same year, several persons were charged with heresy, and some of them obliged to bear faggots in the public market; the principal of these were Mrs. Rowley and Joan Ward—the latter was afterwards burnt in the Little Park, adjoining this City.

In 1512, one hundred men were raised in this City, for military service abroad.

In 1513, a collection took place for the cloathing of fifty men; the money for which purpose was sent

to London.—On the Michaelmas after, every man was rated according to his property, and paid 6d. in the pound.

In 1519, the Bishop of Chester came to this City, to examine several persons charged with heresy, and condemned the following seven:—Mrs. Langdaile, Alice Smith, Thomas Langdaile (her brother-in-law), Hosea Hawkins (a skinner), ——— Wrexham (a glover), Robert Hocket, and Thomas Bond; these persons were all burnt in the Little Park; one Robert Silkeby fled. They were charged with having the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed, in English; they had moreover refused to obey the Pope or his agents.

In the same year, one Harvey being chosen a Sheriff, petitioned Henry VIII. to be excused from serving the office, which after some difficulty he obtained; he then left the City.

In the following year, Robert Silkeby was taken, and burnt on the Monday before Christmas, for alledging, that Christ was not bodily in the Sacrament.

In the year 1522, two persons of the names of Pratt and South were arrested in this City, for treason; they confessed, that it was their intention to have put the mayor and aldermen to death,

to have robbed St. Mary's Hall, and to have taken Kenilworth Castle. They were sent to London to receive their sentence, and were afterwards executed in this City, being taken on a sledge to the gallows, and hanged, drawn, and quartered; the head of South was placed on New-Gate, with a leg and shoulder, and the other parts at Bishop-Gate;—the head of Pratt was placed on Bablake-Gate, with a leg and shoulder, and the other parts on Greyfriars-Gate.

On Lammas-day, 1524, the inhabitants of this City pulled down the gates and hedges of some ground that had been inclosed.—Those within the City, shut New-Gate against the Chamberlains and their company. The mayor (NICHOLAS HEMYNG) was conveyed as a prisoner to London, and removed from his office.

In 1525, the Princess Mary came to this City, and on her arrival, the mercer's pageant, superbly habited, was placed in Cross Cheaping. She remained two days at the Priory, and on her departure, was presented with an 100 marks.

In 1534, the Dukes of Richmond and Norfolk came to this City, and were received by the mayor and citizens in their liveries; they had a banquet in the street on horseback, from thence they proceeded to Combe Abbey.

In 1541, the mayor (CUTHBERT JOYNER) laid the first stone of the *new* Cross, in Cross Cheaping.

In 1544, the Cross was finished.

On the dissolution of the monasteries, trade grew so low, and occasioned such a dispersion of people from this City, that John Hales, Esq. represented to the Duke of Somerset, then Protector, that there were not, at that time, above 3000 inhabitants, whereas formerly, there had been 15,000. To remedy this evil, a charter was granted to the City, for an additional fair to be held on the 21st of October, and two following days.

In the same year, the great oak, in Cheylesmore, and the upper part of Greyfriars steeple, were blown down.

In 1550, the magistrates of this City, had a sale of wood in the Park, and sold the pales.—The Park was then made a pasture.

In 1553, a great quantity of armour was taken here.

In the same year, a fire broke out in four parts of this City; the common bell rang, which amazed the inhabitants so much, that they knew not what they did; watch and ward was kept night and day, but no harm ensued.

In 1554, Mr. Hopkins, one of the Sheriffs of this

City, was confined in the Fleet prison at London, on a charge of heresy; after great intercession he was restored to his liberty, and fled the kingdom.

On February 8, 1555, Mr. Laurence Saunders was burned for heresy, in the Little Park, adjoining this City. He received his education at Eton, and King's College, Cambridge, and was a firm advocate for the protestant religion. He was arrested, whilst preaching in Bread-street, London, by order of Bishop Bonner, committed to the Marshalsea prison, and from thence sent down to this City, to be burned. He was led to the place of execution, bare-footed, in old and mean apparel; on the road, he frequently fell on his face and prayed most fervently to the Almighty. Having approached the place of execution, the officer told him, that if he would revoke his former heresies, the Queen had pardoned him, if not, he was to be consumed in the pile before him. Saunders still persisted in his faith. The officer then cried, "Away with him." On his arrival, he fell to the ground and prayed; and rising again, took the stake to which he was to be chained in his arms, and kissed it, saying, "Welcome the cross of Christ, welcome everlasting life." Being then fastened, and fire applied to the stake, he was burnt to ashes; but the wood being green, he, for a considerable time, endured much pain.

On September 19, in the same year, Robert

Glover, M. A. of Manceter, near Atherstone, was burned at the same place, for denying the tenets of the Roman Catholic persuasion. He was condemned by Ranulph, Bishop of the Diocese, who was then at Coventry.

The same Bishop also condemned Cornelius Bongey, a capper, of Coventry, upon seven charges of heresy: the first of which was, that, "for three years past he had, in the Cities of Coventry, Lichfield, and other places, argued that the Priest had no power to absolve any sinner from his sins." he also was therefore committed to the secular power, and suffered at the same stake with Robert Glover.—*Fox's Martyrs*.

In 1560, the Boys Hospital, at Bablake, was built.

In 1561, the Hock Tuesday game was laid aside.

In 1562, the Earl of Leicester received 20*l.* as a present from this City.

The same year, 186*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* was paid to a Mr. Duly, for the purchase of the tithes of the City, from Queen Elizabeth.

In the beginning of 1563, wheat sold at 8*s.* and rye at 6*s.* a strike; but in the end of the same year, wheat fell to 14*d.* and rye to 10*d.* the strike.

In 1564, 221 persons died of the plague, in St. Michael's parish.

On August 17, 1565, Queen Elizabeth, in her progress through this part of the Kingdom, came to this City, where she was splendidly received by the Mayor and Citizens, with a variety of shows and

pageants. The tanners pageant stood at Spon-street Gate; the drapers at the Cross; the smiths at Little Park-street; and the weavers at Much Park-street. The Sheriffs, in their scarlet cloaks, and twenty young men on horseback, in a livery of fine purple, met her Majesty at the extremity of the liberties of the City, towards Wolvey: each of them presented to her Majesty a white rod, which she receiving, delivered to them again; they then rode before her, until they came near the City, where the Mayor (EDMUND BROWNELL) and Aldermen, in their scarlet gowns also, met her Majesty.—Mr. John Throgmorton, the Recorder of this City, a man of wisdom and learning, as appears from his oration, was also clothed in a scarlet gown. The Mayor kneeled down, holding the great mace in his hand, and being on the upper hand of the Recorder until he spoke these words: “In token whereof, we most humbly yield up ourselves unto your Majesty’s regal power and merciful authority,” at these words, the Mayor, kissing the mace, delivered it into her hands, and then kneeled down on the other side of the Recorder. The Recorder then presented to her Majesty a purse, supposed to be worth twenty marks, and in it 100*l.* in angels, which her Majesty accepting, was pleased to say to her Lords, “It is a good gift, an 100*l.* in gold, I have but few such gifts.”—To which the Mayor answered boldly, ‘If it please your Grace, there is a great deal more in it.’

“What is that?” said she. ‘The hearts (replied he) of all your loving subjects.’ “We thank you, Mr. Mayor (said she), it is a great deal more indeed.” The oration being ended, for which the Recorder was much praised, her Majesty asked him his name, and conversed with him respecting several points alluded to in the oration; and having delivered the mace to the Mayor, who rode before her next to the Earl of Huntingdon, she then entered at Bishop Gate, where the Common Council were standing in their gowns and hoods; proceeding forward, her Majesty alighted at the Free School, went into the Library, and made a present of some money; from thence she rode to the Whitefriars, where she slept on Saturday and Sunday nights. On Sunday, the Mayor and all the Council dined with her Majesty. On Monday, her Majesty left the City, passing through Spon Gate, on her journey to Kenilworth, where she desired the Mayor and Aldermen to attend on the Tuesday following; and being come to the utmost boundary of the liberties, the Queen delivered the mace into the Mayor’s hand again. On Tuesday, the Mayor, and Aldermen rode to Kenilworth, where they were well entertained. Her Majesty made the Recorder a Knight, and demanded what estates the Mayor possessed; for it was thought that if he had expended 4*l.* a year, in real property, he would have been knighted also. By the Queen’s command, thirty bucks, upon this occasion, were delivered to the Mayor and Aldermen.

*The Oration of Mr. John Throgmorton Recorder of
Coventry, to Queen Elizabeth, on her coming to
Coventry.*

“NOT of custom, but for duty’s sake, and yet no more for duty than for hearty good will, most mighty, gracious, and most excellent Sovereign, both I, the officer, amongst others, the meanest, who at this time can or may be missed, and the Mayor of this City, with the Aldermen his brethren, and the whole Commonalty do shew ourselves as faithful subjects, most glad to see your Majesty within this City and territory of the same, in good health, and princely estate; calling unto your remembrance, that, as the natural body cannot long continue safely, except the head, as principal part thereof, do enjoy perfect health, so much the more in the politic body, all the parts thereof wax weak, and sooner decay, except the head and chief Governor of them does live and continue in most healthful and prosperous estate. Then, forasmuch as your Majesty, by God’s divine providence, is ordained to be our Sovereign, not of this City only, but of this noble realm, we all, as one, members of one body, whereof you are the head, and as subjects to your Highness, and as good Christians, to our Queen; set our hearty good will, which respectively surmounteth our treasure, as comparable in all parts with any City or Town within this your noble realm. In token whereof, we most humbly yield ourselves up unto your Majesty’s regal power and merciful authority, being ready at all times not only to spend what we have, but also, to bestow our lives by your commandment, in the service and quarrel of your Majesty; and very good cause have we so to do; for that by no record, much less by memory of any man, so merciful a governor so well qualified with justice, within this realm, hath not hitherto been seen; the fruit of which grace and goodness all we your faithful and most humble subjects do plentifully enjoy at this time, to all our profits and comforts; and if that commonwealth be said to be happy, where the Prince favoureth learning and knowledge, that justice may rather be done, how much more happy are we, that have not only a Prince that loveth learning and justice, but, also, is plentifully endowed with all wisdom and virtue,

and in life doth practice the skill thereof, to the great admiration of all your subjects, and their comfort universally. I fear to enter, most gracious Prince, into the discourse of that which present occasion offereth, or, to prosecute that which I am already driven into, I mean of your manifold virtues; for, if I should speak of the singular and manifold gifts of nature and grace ingrafted in your royal person from your tender years, of your profound learning and policy, seldom to be found in any man, comparable, much less in any woman, it would be a great deal harder for me to find an end than a beginning; and I assure you, time would rather fail than fortunate occasions of celebrating the most quiet and peaceable government of this your realm, even from the beginning of your happy reign, the like whereof, without flattery, cannot be found in any of your noble progenitors times; a singular gift of God to your Highness! a wonderful comfort to your subjects! oh, happy Queen, therefore, sent us by God, as an excellent and divine jewel oh! happy, fortunate people, allowed by God to receive so rare a benefit! but, forasmuch as your modest ears are not delighted with your own commendations, be they ever so true, I will surcease, leave more and better untouched; and therefore I will resort to this ancient City, which hath been of long time, and times past, called the Prince's Chamber, the third City of your realm, or rather the chief of her principals; of which, if I should stand to shew the pleasant situation, the fertile soil environing the same, and the natural force, planted in or very near the midst of this realm; and should, withall, recount to your Highness the great antiquity thereof, and how it first began, how it after increased, and, lastly, grew up to a flourishing state, being remembered by Polydore Virgil to be of no small account in the time of King Arviragus (which was forty-four years after our Saviour), who then reigned in this land, in the Emperor Claudius's time who warred against him; and, after the arrival of the Danes, who miserably afflicted the people of this realm, the inhabitants of this City, with their neighbours, utterly overthrew them in the last conflict with the Saxons, a certain memorial whereof is kept to this day, by certain open shows in this City yearly*; and if I also declare what great traffic with rich and wealthy Citizens

* Hock Tuesday.

it had sometimes, what carved and gorgeous temples it was decked with, and with how many stately buildings it was replenished withall; and, lastly, how much it was adorned, by many bountiful gifts of sundry large privileges, wherewith divers worthy men, as Leofric Earl of Chester, Counsellor to King Edward the Confessor, your noble ancestor, and others your most noble progenitors, endowed the same, I should enter into a larger field than time would well suffer me to pass through; but lest, I should be over tedious to your Highness, which by all means I seek to shun, it shall therefore, I trust, suffice to note unto your Majesty, that though nature deny to the inhabitants of this City the especial benefit of the sea, the principal maintenance of many great and famous Cities, yet, were they otherwise so planted, so much holpen by the commodities of the soil, so greatly enriched by their own traffic and industry in sundry arts and mysteries, and, lastly, so well furnished of able and beneficial friends, as well recompenseth the wants which nature had denied them; and because, thrice happy is that city or town that findeth many friends, and the principal maintenance of this City hath always been the friendship of good and worthy men, I have thought good, (since reason and honesty also requireth that men, by thankful remembrance, should celebrate the happy memory of their friends) shortly to run over some of the principal pillars and chief founders, as it were, in this estate and common wealth, amongst the histories of a number of them long before this time, with whom, either for the uncertainty of reports I dare not, or for the tediousness of writers themselves, I will not, trouble your Majesty; I will begin with noble Ranulph, sometime Earl of Chester, who granted unto the Burgesses of Coventry, then being but a Borough Town, great liberties and freedoms, which Henry I. and Henry II. your noble progenitors, Kings of this realm, confirmed and amplified, with a liberal grant of all franchises, freedoms, and customs, and liberties the same as the City of Lincoln had. The puissant Prince Edward, Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, and Earl of Chester, surnamed the Black Prince, confirmed, and augmented sundry liberties, which Queen Isabel his grandmother gave to them; all which the most renowned King Edward III. not only confirmed, but also of princely

liberality, increased the same. That mild Prince Henry VI. of especial affection which he bare to this City, greatly enlarged the territory of the same, and made a Shire Town of it, exempting it from the County of Warwick, whereof before it was. He made the Mayor, Escheator, Coroner, Clerk of the Market within the said City and County thereof; and further granted, that the Steward or Marshal of the King's House should not exercise their authority within the liberties of this City and County thereof, neither in the presence or absence of the Prince himself. Your noble father King Henry VIII. equal with the best of his predecessors, in felicity and noble prowess, and willing not to be inferior to them in liberality and bountifulness to this City, amongst his so many princely benefits bestowed in all parts of this realm, founded also in this City, for the maintenance of learning, a free-school, or rather college as he intended, for the better education of the youth of this City in virtue and learning, and for continuance thereof passed, or let go certain lands of great value, which this City doth not enjoy, but are unjustly deprived of the same by sinister, underhand, unjust means, albeit, his Grace assured the same to that only use and intent: for redress whereof, the Mayor and Commonalty of this City most humbly beseech your Majesty to give gracious hearing to their further complaint. Your Highness's most dear and worthy brother, King Edward VI. of ready disposition, to the maintenance of this City, granted a great portion of this City to the Mayor and Commonalty in fee firm; and the high and mighty Prince John, Duke of Northumberland, gave unto this City for many years the farm and manor of Cheylesmore, near adjoining to the same, upon such easy rent, and to so good intent, for the relief of the poor, as these that now be within this City, and their posterity after them, will have good cause to be thankful for so great a benefit received, and to continue mindful of the great goodwill and especial favour which that noble Duke used towards them, and to acknowledge the same in grateful remembrance. All which grants and franchises, liberties, freedoms, customs, and privileges, your Majesty of your great bounty and goodness, hath ratified and confirmed. Now, as your

Majesty hath heard the first advancement and flourishing state of this City; so the bewraying of the lamentable ruin and decay thereof, partly by fatal adversities, partly by other occasions not meet at this time to trouble your Majesty with, it would be tedious to your Majesty to hear, and grievous to us to remember, and therefore, I pass it over in silence, with great good hope conceived of a speedy repair thereof. The coming of your Majesty, with whose present estate it hath pleased God to bless this City, doth bid, and, as it were, prognosticate, the conversion of a bad fortune into some better and prosperous estate: so, as after a long and huge dark tempest the pleasant beams of the sun appearing, glad and comfort every moving creature, even so doth the delectable presence of your Majesty's royal person so ravish and stir up the hearts of the inhabitants of this your poor City, lately oppressed with the cloudy care of their unfortunate adversity, that the joy and comfort of the same cannot be expressed, though I had Cicero's eloquence. The popular course of the inhabitants, their eagerness to behold your Majesty, the ways and streets filled with company of all ages, desirous of having the fruition of your blessed countenance, the divers shows and stages provided to the utmost of their powers, as if not satisfied with one sight of your royal person, the houses and habitations themselves, lately arisen from their naked barns to a more lively and fresh furniture, doth sufficiently declare the same I speak;—the joyful hearts, the singular affections, the ready and humble good-will of us your true, poor, hearty subjects. And, finally, the Mayor and Commons of this your poor City, for further declaration of the same, do present your Majesty with a simple gift, in token of their good hearts and just obedience, trusting that your Highness will accept the same, in such sort as Artaxerxes, that noble King of Persia, did the humble gift of a poor plowman his subject, who, when he saw his Prince presented with many gifts, and, being desirous to shew his duty and good-will, not having aught else to give, ran to the next river, and, taking up both his hands full of water, offered the same to the King, who, measuring the gift by the necessity and good will of the giver, did receive the same, and liberally rewarded him. And so I end; humbly craving of your Majesty, for myself, pardon

for my rude barbarousness; for the City, toleration, which earnestly, and most humbly I desire, that your Highness may so like with this their poor simple entertainment, as you may oft to your Grace's content, and their great rejoicing, visit the same, to our exceeding great joy; for that at present we enjoy and possess your princely person, so do we most heartily wish that the same may continue in issue, that, like as you are a mother to your kingdom, and to the subjects of the same, by justice and motherly care and clemency, so you may, by God's goodness and justice, be a natural mother, and, having blest issue of your princely body, may live to see your children's children unto the third and fourth generation. Which God of his infinite mercy to all your people grant! AMEN.

In 1566, Mary, Queen of Scots, was confined as a prisoner, in the Mayoress' Parlour, in this City.

In 1567, the Park was granted in fee ferme to this City.

In this year, this City had the exclusive right of making arramatioz, or arrementine cloth.

The same year, two yokes of fat oxen and forty wethers, were given to the Earl of Leicester, as a present from the City.—The expence of their purchase amounted to 43*l.* 7*s.*

In 1568, the Mayor (JOHN HARFORD), walking in a field, with a couple of greyhounds, met with a person of the name of William Heley, an embroiderer, who was walking with his wife and mother, attended by a little spaniel dog. The greyhounds ran at the spaniel; and Heley wishing to protect him, beat the greyhounds. This circumstance of

fended Harford, who immediately struck him so violently on the back with his walking-staff, that he died within a fortnight from his ill-treatment. On this account, Harford was deprived of his office, expelled from the Council of the City for ever, and obliged to compromise with Heley's wife for his pardon.

*Queen Elizabeth's Letter for depriving the Mayor
(John Harford) of his office.*

"To our trusty and well-beloved the Recorder and Aldermen
of our City of Coventry. *Elizabetha Regina.*

"Trusty and well beloved, we greet you well. We perceive by letter written from you unto our right trusty and well-beloved cousin and counsellor the Earl of Leicester, whereof he hath made report unto us, the late mischance happened to the Mayor of that our City of Coventry, being charged with the death of one of our subjects of our said City, for the which he is committed to ward. And like as we find it reasonable that his cause be tried and ordered by the ordinary course of justice and the laws of our realm, without any particular regard of persons, or other private respect; so do not we think convenient that our said City should remain without a head or governor till the accustomed time of the election of a new Mayor there, which as we be given to understand, is not until the month of November. We let you therefore wit our pleasure and commandment is, that upon the receipt of these our letters, and by authority of the same, you shall forthwith proceed as well to the deprivation of the said Mayor from his mayoralty, as also to the election of another in his stead, to occupy the place of Mayor for our said City, until you shall at the accustomed ordinary time make choice of a new one, in such wise as by your charter you might and ought to do, if the said former Mayor were either dead, or otherwise found unable to execute his said

charge. Whereby, or by any other thing contained in these our letters, we mean not to prejudicate the cause of the said late Mayor, or that any hold or advantage should be thereby taken to enforce any matter against him; or that he should be otherwise dealt withall in this matter wherewith he is charged, than may stand with the ordinary course of our laws, and the due and upright administration of justice, without any manner of partiality or other indirect dealing; and when your ordinary time for the choice of a new Mayor shall be come you may consider whether it shall be fit to continue the person that you shall now choose instead of him that is to be deprived, or to make choice of a new one, and to do therein as you shall find most necessary for the common weale of the said City, if by order of law the fact of your Mayor shall deserve death: our meaning is, that before any execution thereof done, you should certify us of your proceedings in the trial. Given under our signet, at our town of Southampton, the 8th day of September, the 11th year of our reign."

In 1569, Mary Queen of Scots, was removed from Tutbury to this City, and kept as a prisoner, at the Bull inn, from St. Andrew's day until Candlemas, by the Earls of Shrewsbury and Huntingdon. The Citizens kept watch and ward day and night at every Gate, that none might pass without examination. She was afterwards removed to Tutbury again.

The same year, the Register books of St. Michael's parish were destroyed, because they had some marks of popery in them.

In 1574, the Mayor's Parlour, in Cross Cheaping, was erected.

On January 22, 1574, the scite and precincts of St. Mary's Monastery, with Bishop-street leet, lying

within this City, were purchased of the Executors of the late Stephen Hales.

In the same year, the plague was very prevalent in this City; thirty persons died in Bablake. At this time also, a somewhat singular occurrence took place; an old man helped to convey his daughter to her grave, in St. Michael's church-yard, and no sooner had the funeral taken place, than he too fell down dead, and in three hours was buried in the same place.

During Queen Elizabeth's stay at Kenilworth Castle, in July, 1575, the old Coventry play of Hock Tuesday*, was performed for the entertainment of her Majesty, by some of the inhabitants of this City, under the management of a Captain Cox. This play was founded on the story of the massacre of the Danes, on St. Brice's night (Nov. 13), 1002. In the play were represented, as described by Laneham, the insolency of the Danes, the grievous complaint of Hunna (King Ethelred's chieftan in war), his plot and contrivance to dispatch them; the violent encounters between the Danish and English knights on horseback, armed with spear and shield, and afterwards between hosts of footmen; the contest at length ended in the defeat of the Danes, who were many of them led captive by our English women.—

* This play must not be confounded with the Mysteries acted on Corpus Christi day, by the Franciscans of this City, which were also called Coventry Plays (*See Grey Friars*).

At this representation, her Majesty laughed heartily, and rewarded the performers with two bucks and five marks. The ancient play of Hock Tuesday, it seems, had been exhibited *yearly* in this City, but of late, had been suppressed through the instance of some well-meaning, but precise preachers, of whose sourness, on this occasion, the citizens complained; and contended, that their play was without example either of ill-manners, popery, or any superstition. But when Queen Elizabeth came, the Coventry men were so eager to revive their play, that apparently, they had not been able to recover their old rhimes, or to procure new ones to accompany the action; their performance, therefore, was entirely reduced to a dumb shew.—*Percy's Reliques*.

In this year, the Hock Tuesday game, which had been laid aside eight years, was revived.

In the latter end of 1576, a conduit was removed from Greyfriars Gate, to the Red Lion, in Greyfriars-lane; it was originally to have been brought to the Drapery door*, but the ground would not permit it. The following inscription was placed upon the conduit:—

This conduit here by costly toil is brought unto this place,
Would God, it might for better use attain a longer space.

In 1578, four oxen were given to the Earl of Leicester, as a present from this City.

* Now the Drapers' Hall.

The same year, the Dirige Hall, at Bablake, the Wardens Chamber, the Priests Chamber, on the West side, and the School, were laid together, with some fresh additions, to form a House of Correction.

This year, 182 persons died of an infection, in St. Michael's parish, in this City.

In 1579, the Religious Pageants were again laid aside; and the steeples of both churches pointed.

In 1580, the inside of St. Mary's Hall was painted.

In 1586, in consequence of a great scarcity of provisions, every man, woman, and child, in this City was numbered, and the whole amount was 6,502 persons.

In 1592, the city wall was repaired.

In 1594, the *great mace* was made.

In 1598, 50*l.* was given to the Earl of Essex, on his going to Ireland.

In 1601, the Free School was furnished with a library of books, through the exertions of the Master and Usher.

On Tuesday, April 3, 1603, the Princess Elizabeth, eldest daughter to James I. came to this City, from Combe Abbey, with Lord and Lady Harrington, and many other Ladies of distinction. To shew that due deference which the respectability of the party demanded, the Mayor and Aldermen, with the rest of

the livery, rode out of the town, in their scarlet gowns, as far as Jabet's Ash, on Stoke Green, where they met the Princess: The Mayor alighted from his horse, kissed her hand, and then rode before her into the City, with the Aldermen, &c. Lord Harrington went bare-headed before the coach along the streets (which were lined with the different companies of the City, standing in their gowns and hoods) from Gosford-gate to the Drapery door, near St. Michael's Church, where having arrived, and heard a sermon, the Princess went from thence to St. Mary's Hall, attended by her train; a chair of state was placed at the upper end of the room, in which her Highness dined; from whence, having finished her repast, she adjourned to the Mayoress's Parlour, which was fitted up in a most sumptuous manner for her reception. Lord Harrington, the Mayor, with the rest of the Ladies and Gentlemen then dined. The Mayor afterwards presented to the Princess a silver cup, double-gilt, which cost the City 29*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* She then left the Hall, and rode down Cross Cheaping, attended by the Mayor, &c. to Bishop-gate, Spon-end, Spon-street, Gosford-gate, and Jabet's Ash, where the Mayor left her with Lord Harrington and his train, who re-conveyed her to Combe.

Five pounds were given to the Servants of the Princess.

The same year, the plague raged dreadfully in this City; 494 persons died of this distemper.

And in this year, a great part of the city wall, without New-gate, near Lady's-tower, fell down.

In 1605, two fat oxen, worth 18*l*. were given to the Princess Elizabeth, as a present from this City.

In June, 1606, the inhabitants of this City, pulled down the hedges that had been planted in the Park: on which account, Lord Compton, the King's Lieutenant, offered a pardon to those, who should acknowledge their offence, and crave the mercy of the King. This affair was afterwards the subject of an assize trial, when several were found guilty, but none punished.

On April 7, 1606, a part of this City and Suburbs, containing 250 dwelling houses, was suddenly inundated by a flood of water, which rose above three yards in height; in four hours and a half from its commencement, however, it subsided.

In 1607, the Cross and Greyfriars steeple were repaired.

In 1608, Bablake Church was repaired: the picture of a dead Christ being taken down from the Cross, was removed thence, and the King's Arms placed in its stead.

In 1610, seats were placed in the different Churches of this City, on which the inhabitants might kneel when they received the Sacrament. The following is a Letter from King James upon this subject:—

“To our trusty and well-beloved, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriffs, and other our Officers, and loving Subjects of our City of Coventry; and to Dr. Hinton, Archdeacon of Coventry, and vicar of the Parish Church of St. Michael, in our said City.

“Trusty and well beloved, we greet you well. We have been informed of a thing continued among you in that our City of Coventry, whereof we intend a present reformation according to that which is by law established in this our Church of England and commanded, and as we take it, in all places else in our kingdom observed, as we ourself, in our person do carefully perform it, although we doubt not, but that you, and the whole world are assured, that we detest both idolatry and superstition as much as any whatsoever. The said disorder noted with you is, that you refuse to receive the blessed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ *kneeling*, but receive it for the most part, *standing or sitting*. We have hereof given a special charge to our servant the Bishop of that Diocese, to see this abuse reformed. Yet of our princely favour towards you, and for that we find in our said servant, your Bishop, a desire to effect this by good means and gentle persuasions, rather than by legal proceedings against any; we have thought good first to signify our pleasure, and to admonish you of our dislike thereof, presuming that the same shall so work with you, that there shall not need any other means to draw you to that, which duty and piety so bind you to. We therefore freely signify unto you, that we hold it an unsufferable disorder in a well settled church and state, that any particular society or city, professedly and publicly (especially in a religious action) should do the contrary of that, which the ordinances of that church and state do command; and that we are resolved by no means to give so much as the least way to any pretence of prescription or indulgence heretofore afforded, to patronise such an enormity; but do require of you, both by your example, and by all such authority as any way is committed unto you, and otherwise, that you endeavour to bring all our subjects of that City to the performance of that, which in this case both you and they are by our ecclesiastical laws commanded,

as you tender our good opinion of your government in your places, or respect our displeasure for the contrary. And we do also hereby charge you Dr. Hinton, the Vicar of the Parish Church of St. Michael's, within that our City of Coventry, and Archdeacon there, that you both in your own person observe the Canons of our Church in that case established for the receiving of the said holy Communion kneeling and likewise that you do see the same to be performed by others; that both in private by conference, and in public by exhortation in preaching, you endeavour to draw all of your care and jurisdiction to perform this duty, which law justly enjoineth, and we upon so good account require of them. Hereof we require you not to fail, as you tender our displeasure for the not doing thereof. Given under our signet, at our Palace of Westminster, the fourth day of February, in the eighth year of our reign over Great Britain, France, and Ireland."

This year, the City wall, which had fallen down near New-Gate, was repaired.

In 1611, Prince Henry, with a train of nobility, came to this City, and were entertained that evening at St. Mary's Hall; on the following morning they pursued their journey. 50*l.* was given to the Prince as a present.

In 1613, the *long* gallery, on the South side of St. Michael's church was built; it cost 59*l.* 16*s.*

In 1615, the *little* gallery, over the Mercer's Chapel, in St. Michael's church, was built; it cost 2*l.* 18*s.*

In August, 1616, during the mayoralty of SAMUEL MILES, most of the houses, gates, &c. were painted

with black and white colours, in expectation of a visit to this City, from King James I. Accordingly, on Tuesday, September 2, 1617, he arrived with a numerous train of his Nobility, and was met by the Mayor and Aldermen, in their scarlet gowns, without Bishop-gate. At their meeting, Dr. Holland (dressed in black satin) made an excellent oration to his Majesty, which was much praised. This being ended, the Mayor delivered the sword to the King, who returned it again; and the Mayor carried it before him, bare-headed, through Bishop-gate, Cross Cheaping, High-street, Hay-lane, to St. Michael's Church; which structure pleased him much.—From thence he proceeded to St. Mary's Hall, where he as well as his attendants were splendidly entertained. After supper he proceeded to the White Friars, where he slept; the next day, he went with the Mayor and Aldermen, riding before him, in scarlet gowns, bare-headed, to the Free School; from thence up Cross Cheaping, to Spon Gate. At his departure, he gave the Mayor and Aldermen hearty thanks for all their kindness shewn to him and his nobility. A cup of pure gold, which cost 160*l.* weighing 45*oz.* and containing 100*l.* was given to his Majesty; for this costly present, the King returned them thanks. The foot of this cup was chased with the King's Arms, the two supporters, and garter; next was a tollet, with three lions supporting the potkin or handle; in the middle of the potkin in cast-work of gold, were two thistles

and two roses standing out with three escutcheons, with the King's Arms curiously wrought; next were three antiques in form of three men, back to back, to bear up the bowl; the bowl was raised, and graven about the lip; on the cover was the form of an imperial crown richly wrought; then a coronet, to which the crown was fastened; within the crown was the cover of the cup with two heights, and a pyramid above; on the top of the crown was a scroll or wreath which turned about, on which was engraved, *Ejus corona crescat in orbem*; above, was a terrestrial globe; and on the summit of the globe a little pyramid. In the bottom of the cup was engraved the elephant and castle (the arms of the City of Coventry), with their motto, *City of Coventry*. The case of the cup was crimson velvet, lined with crimson taffeta. "Out of this Coventry cup (the King said), wherever he went, he would drink." He ordered it to be put up with the royal plate; and to be preserved for the heirs of his crown for ever.

*The Oration of Philemon Holland, Doctor in Physic,
to King James I.* 1617.*

"MOST high and mighty King, vouchsafe to receive from me your humble orator, the exceeding joy which your loyal and

* The King, in his return from Scotland, made his progress through the hunting countries (his hounds and hunters meeting him). Sherwood forest, Needwood, and all the parks and forests in his way, were ransacked for his recreation."—*Wilson*, p. 106.

loving subjects, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons do now conceive, for your safe return out of your noble united realm of Scotland. Right glad were we all, when in the fullness of time your Highness, from thence came to possess the imperial crown of this kingdom, descended upon you,—for why? *Sol occubuit; nox nulla sequuta est*—the full brightness and strength whereof seeing, we have enjoyed ever since; far greater is our present gladness, by how much known jewels are of greater price, and blessings once had are sooner missed. In these few years (and many may there be of your happy reign over us), we have found a concurrence of so many felicities proportioned to your incomparable wisdom, justice, mercy, and other princely virtues (seasoned all with true religion), as no age by any record can boast the like. To rehearse them all would breed distasteful satiety; to bury them in oblivion, were impiety, to avoid one and the other—*summa sequar vestigia rerum—placet enim illud*.—We have seen peace both in church and commonwealth fully established, wholesome laws respective to the times judicially enacted, and the same with mercy, equity, and moderation (all seated in your princely breast) duly executed; the antient catholic faith, according to your just title, constantly defended; the Holy Scriptures, with profound judgment, newly translated; a work of high consequence in matters of religion, and beseeching a noble Prince; your own powerful pen in those rare and admirable compositions directly bent against that usurping and bloody seat of Rome, plotting assassination of Christian Princes, and teaching so to do; which words, like so many battering piers, have shaken the foundation of that Italian Babylonian, so as the very Sultan there, seeing the defection of some, and the wavering of others, must needs say in his heart, as Hector himself did a little before the downfall of Troy. And who knoweth whether the Divine Providence hath not appointed that in these your days, even that Rome proudly styled sometimes *Urbs æterna, vetus veticivira*? We have seen the realm of Ireland, without sword drawn, reduced to civility; aye, and justice settled in all parts thereof, which, within 440 years and more, with effusion of so much blood and expence of so many millions of pounds, could never be performed. Now,

(and not before) to the immortal honour of King James be it spoken, the strings of the Irish harp be all in tune and make a good harmony; the wild and ireful Irish is subdued, indeed, and governed by ordinary laws, under our sovereign and mighty Monarch. We have seen the insolent outrages suppressed of those rude and unruly borderers of the middle shires of Great Britain, where now, instead of deadly fury, is entertained mutual amity; instead of hostility, hospitality; a thing not known before by any Prince, your noble progenitor. Lastly, such a heavenly gift hath God bestowed on your Majesty, as among other Kings is rare (if not only to yourself); not only to maintain peace within your own dominions at home, but also to be a blessed peace-maker betwixt foreign Princes and estates abroad. How happy then are we to whom the King of Kings hath sent such a King, as both knoweth and practiseth—*et regere imperio populos, pacisque imponere morem*—the very perfections imposed upon a Roman, that are in a complete prince and ruler. Seeing then that, from this beautiful sun, we of this City, have not received the least comfort, as being situate near the heart of the land—we joyed, only hearing of your Majesty's purpose to make it in your way returning out of that antient realm, and taking knowledge of your vigorous abilities of body and cheerful countenance, ever since your setting foot again upon English ground, we rejoiced much more; and now that our eyes behold your gracious self in so good health and princely port, within our territory—*vere serio triumphamus*. And even already we conceive hope of some good towards this antient City; antient from the time of Arviragus, a British King, and poor for want of traffic, in that nature hath denied it the benefit of the sea, the chief maintenance of great towns and cities; for albeit, that in former times, through the industry of the inhabitants, it flourished, and was accounted the only mart town of these parts and named *Camera Principis*, which we gladly acknowledge it to be; yet by sublunary chances, and fatal revolutions, it hath sensibly fallen to decay. Notwithstanding the bountiful favours of worthy persons, supporters thereof, never to be forgotten; from the time of Leofric

and Ranulph, noble Earls of Chester, the first founders of our franchises; Kings Henry I. and II. confirmed and augmented the same; Queen Isabel, sole inheritrix of France; the puissant King Edward III. the victorious Prince of Wales, Edward, surnamed the Black Prince, jointly together advanced it from a Borough to a City, permitting the Burgesses to elect a Mayor and two Bailiffs. Finally, that mild and devout King Henry VI. of blessed memory, enlarged the privileges, and laid unto the former territory certain villages, and granted it to be an entire County Corporate by itself, distinct from the County of Warwick, and ordained two Sheriffs in lieu of Bailiffs; which Government, through the favour of Princes successively following, hath been ever since continued; and by God's assistance, so managed, as that it was never noted to harbour rebellion or conspiracies; nor at this day, within this City or County, is there known so much as one recusant Papist, or schismatical separatist. And, in token of our loyal obedience to your Majesty, we yield up to your regal authority this said subordinate power; acknowledging thereby, that all our allegiance we owe to your Highness only, and what regimen soever we have; neither are our lives so dear unto us, but that most willing will we be to bestow the same in your Majesty's service. Be pleased then, gracious Lord, to stand favourably to the declining state of this City; and as your noble progenitors have been good to the same, and yourself, in merciful clemency, respected it hitherto; so let the sunshine of your grace be upon it still. And so I conclude, humbly craving of your Majesty, first for myself, your meanest subject, pardon for my rude speech and imperfections; then for the Mayor and Aldermen, and whole body of this City, acceptance of such their simple, yet hearty entertainment as they may have provided; and may they often have the fruition of your presence, and evermore resound this ditty:—

*“ Lucem redde tuis, Rex bone, Civibus;
Instar veris enim vultus ubi tuus
Affulsit populo, gratior it dies,
Et soles meliùs nitent.”*

HOR.

In 1618, a body of soldiers was raised in this City, to resist an invasion meditated, at that time, by the Spaniards; the men were regularly trained in the Park.

In 1619, the following motto was inscribed upon the dial over the Drapery door:—

Ecce! ut hora sic fugit vita.

About this period, a subsidy was granted in this City, for the use of James I.; many of the inhabitants were assessed by the mayor, &c. at 2s. 3d. in the pound for goods, and 4s. for land.

This year, Prince Charles granted a lease of the Park and Cheylesmore, to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty, of this City, for 21 years, at the annual rent of 3*l.* 8*s.*

The same year, application was made to James I. for a renewal of the Charter of the City, which he refused to grant, until he was certified of the conformity of the inhabitants of Coventry to the rules of the Church, viz. *kneeling at the Sacrament*. The Charter was at length obtained, by the intercession of the Bishop of the Diocese, who certified this conformity to his Majesty.

At this time, the Greyfriars conduit was altered and improved, when the following lines were inscribed upon it:—

Ralph Joyner, mayor, brought hither first

Fair water with great cost;

Which Isaac Walden, mayor likewise,

Regain'd when it was lost.

James I. in 1621, by patent, dated July 18, granted the Magistrates of this City, an ample confirmation of all their former charters, and directed that the House in which they assembled for the discussion of City affairs, should be called the Council House, and the members, the Council of the City; and that the Mayor and other Officers should be elected on their Leet day, within a month after Michaelmas, by 31 persons, who should have power to tax themselves and the inhabitants towards the repairs of the walls. He likewise decreed, that there should be a second Council, consisting of 25 persons, to be called the Common Council, of the said City, who should prepare all public business for the inspection of the Mayor and Superior Council. The Mayor and magistrates were empowered also, to purchase lands for the general use of the City, of 300*l.* per annum, provided they were not held *in capite*, or Knight's service*. And finally, the City received a grant of two new Fairs; the one to be holden on the 21st of April, and the other on the 16th of August, with similar tolls to those taken at Smithfield, in London. This Charter was procured by Mr. Samp. Hopkins, one of the City Members, at the expence of 187*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

In 1622, the spires of St. Michael and St. Trinity were both pointed, their summits taken down, and

* This was a tenure, by which several lands were formerly held under the King, that obliged the holder to go personally in the King's wars, whenever he should have occasion for him, or at least to send another in his stead.

replaced. That of St. Michael was encircled with iron bars.

On Wednesday, July 9, in the same year, whilst the congregation were assembled in St. Michael's Church, a violent storm of thunder and lightning arose, and a thunderbolt descended upon the building. A Mr. Marson (a stranger) preached that day; his text was—"Be sober and watch, for the end of all things is at hand;" the thunderbolt fell as he was opening the concluding part of the sentence, and so dreadfully alarmed the congregation that they instantly expected the day of judgment. By the fall of the thunderbolt, one of the pillars of the church was cracked; many of the large stones from the upper battlements were thrown down, and very much injury done to the south wall of the belfry: but, providentially, no persons received any hurt. In the afternoon, THOMAS POTTER, the mayor, caused a sermon to be preached on the occasion, and prayers to be returned to the Almighty, for their happy deliverance.

Prince Charles, the same year, went to Spain, to marry the King's daughter, but returned without her: on this account, great rejoicings took place in this City. The Mayor received the first information at 9 o'clock at night; immediately, a large bonfire was lighted up in Cross Cheaping, and the Aldermen were summoned to the Mayor's Parlour. Here they

regaled themselves for three or four hours, and the bells were rung until 4 o'clock the next morning.

The mayor of this year, likewise planted 250 young trees in the Park, with his own hands; he repaired also the breaches in the City wall, as well as many other parts of the City; and was remarkable for his charity to the poor.

In this year, the old velvet hat, worn by one of the public servants of the City, was adorned with a hatband of gold; and it is a singular circumstance, that 20 persons were living at this time, who had been mayors of Coventry.

From August 28, 1625, to September 28, 1626, the plague raged dreadfully in England, and particularly in Coventry; to avoid infection, the inhabitants retired to houses built in the Greyfriars orchard, and near Quinton pool, in the Park.

On July 17, 1626, the two chamberlains paid a fine of 20*l.* for making a smaller feast at Lammas, than their predecessors, on account of the infection; the money was given to the poor.

On Lammas-day, in 1627, the inhabitants of this City cut down the hedges, and destroyed a wall which extended from Windmill-hill to the Town-side. Several of the offenders were imprisoned by the mayor.

The same year, the mount in the Park was raised, and a tree planted in the middle of it.

The silkweavers were now made a separate and distinct company.

The same year, the Mayor (RICHARD CLERK) was made Captain of a Volunteer Company of Soldiers, raised in this City; they exercised six times in the year, and were allowed by the Council house, 30s. at each meeting.

In 1628, Prince Charles renewed the lease of the Park and Cheylesmore, to the Mayor, for 18 years.

In 1629, the Cross was repaired and gilt; a pillory also was erected upon Cross Cheaping conduit, and the wife of one Overton, was directed by the Judges to be placed on it four times in a year, for five hours each time, during the public market. JOHN CLERK, the mayor of this year, was a worthy man, and studious to promote peace among discordant neighbours; but to shew how difficult it is for persons in a public capacity to conciliate and retain universal esteem, a MS. observes of this Magistrate, in the words of one Jane Askew, of that time—"God bless his Worship! if he did no good, he did no harm."

In 1631, 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* were given to Dr. Holland, annually for three years, as a present from the City.

In 1632, the water-works were constructed at Swanswell-house, for the supply of the Town, by Bart. Bewley, a plumber, and Thos. Sangesson, a mason.

On Wednesday, August 18, 1633, the people were assembled in St. Michael's Church, to hear divine service; during prayers, a great stone fell from the Church wall, at a vast height, with a loud noise; in its fall, a portion of it struck one Gilbert Walden, on the shoulder, and stunned him; he was, therefore, taken out of the church, and after his recovery, returned to offer in the congregation, public thanks to Almighty God, for his deliverance from such imminent danger.

In 1635, the first tax for ship money, was paid in this City.

This year, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, was presented with a silver bowl, weighing 59oz. and a half, which cost 19*l.* 10*s.* as a recompence for the trouble he had taken in settling the business of ship-money.

In this year, old Parr, passed through this City, at the advanced age of 152 years.

The same year, a particular order of Council was issued, on account of the infection in London, and other places; in consequence of which, two watchmen were stationed at New-gate; one at Gosford-gate; one at Grey-friars-gate; two at Spon-end; and one at Bishop-street-gate; all which Gates were kept open, attended by these persons. The Priory, Cook-street, Well-street, Hill-street, Cheylesmore, Little Park-street, and Bastill-Gates, were shut night and

day; their wickets, however, were open, with one warder at each Gate. The bridge at Crow-lane was pulled up.

In 1636, 65*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* were paid for the expences of the preceding year's ship-money. The Recorder of this City received 14*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* as his fee, in this affair; with a pair of fat oxen, also, worth 28*l.*

In 1637, Mr. H. Burton, the Coroner, received 50*l.* for framing a book for the City, containing the order and ceremony of All Saints Day, when the Mayor and other Charter Officers, take the oaths of Office.

This year, the neighbouring gentry sent the Mayor (GODFREY LEGG) 42 does, towards his feast.

In 1638, ship-money was gathered again.

In 1640, fifty muskets and four barrels of powder were procured from London, for the use of this City; and the armour and arms of the City, were stored in a convenient place, in St. Mary's Hall. It was also enacted, by an act of Leet, "that at these dangerous times more than ordinary care should be had of the watch;" it was ordered, therefore, that every householder in his turn, should watch (or find a proper substitute) from 9 o'clock at night until 4 in the morning, on pain of 3*s.* 4*d.* to be levied by distress.

In 1641, Charles I. first raised his standard at Nottingham, and came to Leicester, from whence he sent for the mayor (CHRISTOPHER DAVENPORT) and Sheriffs

of this City, to attend on him at that place: but this circumstance being discovered by some of the inhabitants, they were compelled to remain at home. Aldermen Million and Clerk were on the side of the King; Aldermen Barker and Basnett for the Parliament. The Royalists were distinguished by the colours of the Earl of Northampton (at that time, the City Recorder); the Parliamentarians wore the colours of Lord Brooke, and were more numerous than the partizans of the Earl of Northampton, who mustered not more than 400 men; on which account the Earl made his escape out of the back door of the Black Bull inn. The inhabitants of the City, were completely divided—each fearing his neighbour. The Earl of Northampton afterwards instructed Aldermen Million and Clerk, to secure the magazine in Spon tower (for the use of the County of Warwick), till he could come and convey it away; this being discovered by Mr. Wightwick (Steward of the Court), Aldermen Barker and Basnett, raised a party, forced the enemy's guard of 30 men, took possession of the magazine, and informed Lord Brooke of their success, who came the next morning, and removed it to Warwick Castle. Soon afterwards, a reinforcement of 400 men came from Birmingham and the neighbourhood, to assist the City. Thus, were the Parliamentary party considerably strengthened, and held the City against the King, who shortly after sent an Herald at Arms to demand an entrance, on

the 13th of August, 1642: the answer returned by Dr. Phips, was that they would willingly receive his Majesty and 200 of his followers, but no more.—Incensed at this treatment, the King's party, planted cannon on Stivichall-hill, in the Park; as also on the brow of the Little Park-quarry, and fired several shot against the walls of the town, but with little effect; one man only was killed, and he through his own carelessness. The King finding the Citizens determined to defend themselves, and hearing that Lord Brooke, with an army from London, was approaching, drew off his forces that night*. Some few days afterwards, Lord Brooke arrived with an army of 7,000 foot, exclusive of cavalry. At this time, many of the Royalists who had worn the Earl of Northampton's colours, were sent prisoners to Warwick; whilst the property of others who fled, was sequestered. The stone wall that parted the Great Park from the Little Park, was pulled down and carried away, because, in their attack upon the City, it had afforded shelter to the forces of the King.

In 1642, this City was garrisoned by the Parliament; Alderman Barker was chosen Governor, and Colonel of a regiment of infantry, raised for the defence of the City. Dr. Phips was Lieut.-Colonel, other officers were also appointed, and a troop of

* Pennant says, that King Charles took up his residence at Whitley House, when he summoned the City, and at night retired to Sir Thomas Leigh's, at Stonely Abbey.

cavalry raised. The City was crowded with people who fled hither for safety; deep trenches were cut on the outside of the wall; sluices were opened at the influx of the river Sherbourn, to divert the water, and float the ground at pleasure. Several of the Gates were stopped up; New-gate, Bishop-gate, Spon-gate, and Gosford-gate were left open; Grey-friars-gate was open for some time; before these Gates deep trenches were made; before three of them, half-moon fortifications were erected; strong bulwarks, were raised with draw-bridges, with a cannon ready loaded within the Gate; and one or more cannon were planted on all the principal towers. Barrs-hill, on the North-west side of the City was fortified, and a direct line of communication formed with the City; but this was afterwards demolished, as being at too great a distance. The women, in this time of danger, went by companies into the Great Park, to fill up the quarries, that they might not at a future period, harbour the enemy; they were collected together by sound of a drum, and marched in military order with mattocks and spades, under the command of an Amazon, named Adderley, with an herculean club upon her shoulder; they were conducted from work, by one Mary Herbert, who carried a pistol in her hand, which she discharged as a signal of their dismissal. Two companies of infantry kept watch every night, centinels were placed round the walls, and the main guard was stationed in Cross Cheaping; to pre-

vent a surprize, other centinels were placed at Broad-gate. To try the readiness and watchfulness of the Citizens, the Governor frequently sounded an alarm in the night. A place called Leather Hall, in West Orchard, was formed into a prison for persons of inferior rank; whilst those of a higher station, were confined at the Head Marshal's house, in Much-park-street, opposite the end of White-friars-lane.

In this year, the New Buildings were erected on the scite of the Priory, and a great number of houses pulled down without the Gates.

In 1643, the King's party prevailing, this City was in danger of being besieged; and that provision might not be wanting for their sustenance, the inhabitants were numbered, when it appeared, that there were at that time in the City, 9,500 souls. A new square tower was now built between New-gate and Little-Park-street-gate, at the corner of the wall; in every square were two port-holes, one below and another above, and cannon planted in both. Many large and herculean clubs were also provided for the public protection.

In 1644, GEORGE MONK was chosen mayor, but as he was disaffected to the Parliament, he was not permitted to serve the office; the Governor of the City was then chosen in his place, who wore a sword and a buff coat under his gown; was attended by

military as well as civil officers; and when he proceeded to proclaim the great fair, was accompanied by a troop of cavalry. When the King had taken Leicester, the Citizens expected the siege of Coventry would follow; accordingly, on the following Sunday, all the Citizens were summoned to make an out-work, beyond Gosford-gate, which was to be encompassed by the neighbouring river.

In 1645, the Scotch army, consisting of eleven regiments of foot, came from Hereford, to King's-field, near Gosford-green; as they were not permitted to enter the City, provisions were sent to their encampment.

In 1647, the Scotch army, under the Duke of Hamilton, being beaten, several hundred prisoners were brought to this City, and confined in Leather-Hall, Bablake Church, Spon tower, Grey-friars tower, and various other places.

In 1648, an excise being laid on meat, the soldiers, then in the City, went, on Christmas-eve, to take distresses in the Butcher-row, for their supply of food, but as they were opposed by the butchers, one of the soldiers was killed: on this account, many persons were imprisoned.

In 1650, the King's ferme rents, worth only 148*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* were offered for sale by the Trustees; but when several gentlemen were about to purchase

those which the City paid to the Crown, the City was obliged, for her own preservation, to purchase the whole at 1443*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* Colonel Purefoy, who had been instrumental in procuring this purchase, received, as a present from the City, a silver cup, which cost 27*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*

In 1650, Charles II. came into England, with an army of Scotchmen: this City was again fortified, and a regiment of infantry raised for its defence. When Generals Lambert and Harrison marched this way, the King turned to Worcester, where he was afterwards defeated; the Parliament army, on its return, brought with them a number of Scotch prisoners of eminence, who were confined in this City.

In 1652, 38*l.* 15*s.* were paid in exchange of the *old* for the *new* mace.

In 1655, a breach was made in St. Michael's steeple, by a violent clap of thunder; at the same time, two bays of the high roof of the Church were broken down, the repairs of which amounted to 120*l.*

In 1657, a quarter clock and dial plate were placed on the Cross: a new bell was likewise added to those already in Trinity steeple, which augmented the number to six.

In this year, the Little Park, which had for 16 years, formed a part of the Great Park, was separated from it.

In 1658, during the proteetorate of Richard Cromwell, Sir George Booth, in Cheshire, declared for the King, at which time this City was gar-
risoned by the Parliament, with five companies of
infantry ; Sir George being defeated, the Parliamen-
tarian army passed through Coventry, and left two
companies of infantry and two troops of cavalry, to
strengthen its former force. In this year, also, JOHN
CRICHTLOWE (the mayor) was made a Captain of the
City Militia.

On December 26, 1659, Major Beake, in this City,
declared in favour of a free Parliament. In a very
short space of time, notwithstanding the presence of
a number of soldiers, who were for the Committee of
Safety, he was joined by a majority of the Citizens,
with such weapons as they could immediately pro-
cure. The mayor (RICHARD HICKS) also armed the
Citizens from the magazine, in St. Mary's Hall, in
the same cause ; they were afterwards drawn up by
their Major, in St. Michael's church-yard ; from
whence they marched to Cross Cheaping, where they
demanded the guards of the City, from the Parlia-
mentarian troops, who resigned them to Captain
Hicks, Major Beake, and the Citizens. The Par-
liamentarian troops also, then declared for a free
Parliament ; soon afterwards, Colonel Hacker, who
came to protect the City by order of Parliament,
joined in the same cause.

The restoration of Charles II. to the throne, having been now voted by Parliament, he was proclaimed in this City, by the Mayor (THOMAS BASNET) and Aldermen, in their scarlet gowns, attended by a numerous body of the Citizens, in Cross Cheaping. The greatest acclamations of joy now took place, with drums beating, and trumpets sounding; and so much were the people transported upon the reception of this news, that they seemed almost frantic. The different companies of infantry fired several vollies upon the occasion, and the day concluded with a sumptuous entertainment at the house of the Mayor.

This year, a great contention arose at the election of Members of Parliament for this City; the Sheriffs and a number of witnesses, were afterwards subpoenaed to London, on the occasion.

General Lambert having made his escape from the Tower of London, fled into Warwickshire, where several troops of the old army resorted to him; some of these afterwards proceeded as far as Whitley, which created a considerable alarm in this City; on the following day, however, the General was taken prisoner near Daventry.

In this year, the City Council sent the Steward (R. Hopkins) with several other persons, to present a bason and ewer to Charles II. with 50 pieces of gold, and surrender all the King's lands, with the Great Park.—His Majesty received the deputation very

favourably, and knighted the Steward. The lands were worth, at that time, 150*l.* per annum.—The plate weighed 305 oz. and cost 152*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* The Steward was also presented with a piece of plate, of the value of 21*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

This year, Sir Arthur Caley, of Exhall Hall, was appointed a Captain to the Volunteer Company of Citizens; every man, upon this occasion, without distinction, trailed his pike.

In 1660, a great contention arose in this City, among the inhabitants, respecting the choice of Representatives in Parliament.

On St. George's day, 1661, Charles II. was crowned; on this occasion, Smithford-street and Cross Cheaping conduits, in this City, ran claret, at the expence of T. Norton, Esq. For the better solemnizing of the day, the Mayor and Aldermen, gave a splendid entertainment at St. Mary's Hall. The volunteer companies of infantry fired three vollies; and bonfires were lighted up in the evening, in testimony of their loyalty.

The same year, a second Council was chosen in this City, called the Common Council.

The Earl of Northampton, who this year, visited the City, with most of the neighbouring nobility and gentry, was most hospitably entertained.

This year, Dr. Hacket (Bishop of the Diocese) was

met by the inhabitants, on his journey to this City; and on the following Sunday, preached at St. Michael's Church.

The same year, James Duke of Ormond, the Lord Deputy of Ireland, came to this City, with his Duchess, and a train of nobility. They were met at New-gate, by the Mayor (THOMAS PIDGEON), Aldermen, with all the Companies of the City, in their gowns, and by the two troops of cavalry, and volunteers. A sumptuous entertainment was prepared for them at St. Mary's Hall, at the expence of 27*l.* 1*s.*

On July 22, 1662, the Earl of Northampton, with a numerous train of the neighbouring gentry, and the County troops, under a commission from Charles II. began to make breaches in various parts of the wall, which encircled this City; but they greatly exceeded their orders, and almost totally demolished it. The Earl of Northampton made the first breach at New-gate, where the oldest part of this wall was constructed.—Nearly 500 men were employed upon the work, for three weeks and three days, at the expence of 500*l.* This wall was three miles in circumference, and three yards in breadth; it contained thirty-two towers, and the twelve following gates:—viz. New-gate, Gosford, Bastill (or Mill-lane), Priory, Cook-street, Bishop, Well-street, Hill-street, Spon,

Grey-friars, Cheylesmore, and Little Park-street-gates*.

The same year, Aldermen Bedford and Jelliffe, Sheriff Geary, with several others of the Council-house, were expelled, because they would not take the oath of abjuration, which declared the solemn league and covenant to be unlawful.

On November 19, in the same year, Mr. Nat. Hobson, was fined 100*l.* and underwent a short imprisonment, for refusing to serve the office of Mayor of this City.—The greatest part of this fine was afterwards re-paid: he obtained also, the grant of a lease of two houses and a piece of land, for 99 years, which, ultimately, produced him 300*l.*

In 1663, this City contributed the sum of 60*l.* towards the repair of the Cathedral, at Lichfield, which, during the late civil war, had been seriously injured.

In 1664, a violent wind, blew down Trinity spire upon the body of the church; by which accident, a boy was killed.

The same year, the Mayor (RALPH PHILLIPS) was summoned to appear before the Council, then sit-

* The Gates which remain this year (1810), are Bastill, Priory, and Cook-street gates. On the outside of the City, between Cook-street-gate and the Priory-gate, is a part of the wall still nearly entire.

ting at Oxford; the accusation, however, proving false and futile, he returned with credit.

By the fire of London, in 1666, the Coventry Clothiers lost between three and four thousand pounds.

This year, the Mayor (JOHN DANIELL) and two Aldermen, were summoned before the Council, at London, respecting an attempt of the inhabitants to destroy some mounds in the Park.

In 1667, the Cross was repaired and beautified.

The same year, Trinity spire was finished, and built higher than before, with stone taken from a quarry, without New-gate: The church also was covered.— The spire was now in height 44 yards; the spindle of the weather-cock 2; the tower 33; the whole 79.

In 1668, it was ordered by an Act of Leet, that every apprentice, when bound, should enter his name into the Sword-bearer's book, and pay 4*d.* A similar entry was made again in the same book, and the payment of 6*d.* took place, when his term of servitude expired, and he was sworn a freeman of the City.

It was also ordered in the same year, that the description of halfpence, called tokens, which had been of late, issued by nearly thirty inhabitants of this City, should be called in under a penalty of 5*l.* as many persons were obliged to give 13*d.* of these tokens for 12*d.* in silver.

In 1674, the six bells of St. Michael's Church, were cast into eight, the six exceeded the eight in weight, by 756*lb*. The Church and steeple were also beautified on the outside; and several houses pulled down between the Church and Bayley-lane; the Corporation subscribed 40*l*. towards the expence of this improvement.

In this year, a part of Trinity spire was taken down and rebuilt.

In 1675, Grey-friars steeple was repaired, and a gilt globe placed on the top of the spire; towards which expence, the Corporation subscribed 20*l*.

A part of St. Michael's steeple was also repaired.

The same year, Alderman King brought water from Radford, to this City, for his own use, and erected a new conduit.

In 1677, the Procession at the Show Fair first took place*.

* It had been an ancient custom for the Mayor, &c. to go in Procession to proclaim the fair, attended by a number of armed Guards (which are now denominated, from the colour of their armour, black guards), with their helmets, back and breast plates, halberts, &c. It was probably instituted for the purpose of bringing a numerous concourse of people to this City, and the ancient and popular story of *Lady Godiva* seemed admirably calculated for that purpose; her appearance in a state of nature, was a novelty in this licentious reign, which would irresistably draw the attention of thousands; and, it is also very probable, that *Peeping Tom* can boast no earlier an origin than the present period. Dugdale relates the story of *Lady Godiva* very circumstantially, but he makes no mention of *Peeping Tom*, which he certainly would have done, had the story been known and genuine.—
See pages 10 and 11.

In 1678, Mr. Nathaniel Wanley, received 10*l.* as a present, for his History of Man, which he presented to the Council of this City.

In 1681, the Right Hon. Fulk Lord Brooke (Recorder of this City), accompanied by a great number of Knights and gentlemen, came to the Star inn, where the Aldermen presented him with some wine; they afterwards escorted him to St. Mary's Hall; on his approach to which, he was met at Hay-lane-end by the Mayor (RICHARD HAYWARD) with the sword and mace. After having dined at the Hall, he requested the Mayor, &c. to give 10*l.* to the poor, 1*l.* to the Mayor's Officers, 1*l.* to the City cook, 2*l.* to the ringers, and 1*l.* to the City musicians; these several sums of money were due to him, as Recorder of the City. The Mayor afterwards accompanied his Lordship to Hay-lane, where he took his leave.

In September, 1682, the Duke of Monmouth came to Coventry, and lodged at the Star inn: He was attended in and out of town by many hundreds of the Citizens; bonfires were made and great rejoicings took place. On this account, 18 or 19 persons were indicted for rioting; but were afterwards pardoned by Charles II.

In 1683, the Charter of this City was renewed with various alterations.

On November 20, 1683, a very severe frost began, and continued until Lady-day, 1684.

In this year, the balcony over the Walk at the Mayor's Parlour, was placed upon pillars.

The same year also, the Corporation gave 20*l.* towards purchasing an organ for Trinity Church.

About this period, many persons of this City were committed to prison for frequenting conventicles.

On Saturday, December 19, 1685, at six in the evening, the Mayor (JONATHAN DANIELL) accompanied by the Aldermen, in their scarlet gowns, with lighted torches, went to meet his Excellency Henry Hyde Earl of Clarendon, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who entered the City at New-gate, with a great retinue, and several troops of cavalry. They attended his Excellency to the Black Bull inn, and there presented him with some wine. On the following day, the Mayor, &c. accompanied him to both the Churches; and the next day he left the City.

It is said, that at this time nearly 3000 of the inhabitants died, in consequence of the general unwholesomeness of the food, which had been spoiled by the long frost, and by the violent heat of the succeeding summer.

On September 1, 1687, King James II. came to Coventry; the Mayor (SEPTIMIUS BOTT), having notice of his intention, provided, as a present to his Majesty, a cup of massy gold, weighing about 3*lb.* which cost 167*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* (according to another account

1711. 17s. 6d.) The Mayor supposing that his Majesty would lodge at the Whitefriars, warned the householders between Spon-bar-gates and New-gate, to whiten their habitations, sand the streets, and dress the fronts of their houses with green boughs; the inhabitants of Cross Cheaping, Bayley-lane, and Hay-lane, received the same orders, which were all properly obeyed. But a messenger afterwards, brought word, that his Majesty would lodge at the house of R. Hopkins, Esq. in Earl-street, near the Drapery-door. The Mayor therefore, ordered all the companies of the City to assemble together in the morning; and, about noon, in company with his brethren, the Aldermen, he rode from St. Mary's Hall, to Spon-bar-gates, attended by the Companies with their streamers, drums, and every other kind of martial music, that could be procured. About 200 Citizens (mostly dissenters) went to meet his Majesty as far as Meriden, to whom the King behaved with much respect. Sir Thomas Norton the Deputy Lieutenant, met his Majesty at Guildford, or Guffell-ford, near this City, where he made an excellent speech.—About five in the evening, his Majesty came to Spon-bar-gates, where the Mayor presented to him the gold cup, and Mr. Steward Fielding delivered another speech; the Mayor then gave the sword to the King, who returned it to him again. The Mayor (carrying the sword) with the Aldermen rode before his Majesty, and conducted him to his lodgings; the Companies, standing on each side Spon-street, until

he had passed, followed him into the City. The next morning, the Mayor and Aldermen attended his Majesty from his lodgings to the Cross, St. Trinity, and St. Michael's Churches; from thence he went into St. Mary's Hall, where he breakfasted, and afterwards went to his lodgings; here he re-mounted his horse, and was accompanied by the Mayor and Aldermen, as far as Baginton-bridge, the different Companies standing on each side Much Park-Street, as he passed. Most of the Nobility and Gentry in the neighbourhood, waited upon his Majesty in this City; as well as vast numbers of people from the country. George Lord Dartmouth, attended the King on this occasion, and when his Majesty was presented with the gold cup and cover, he immediately gave it to his Lordship, saying,—“ I would have your Lordship receive this cup and cover, as a mark of the City of Coventry's concern for your Father.” During the time of the civil wars, it appears, that Colonel W. Legge (his Lordship's father) was confined in Coventry goal, after being taken prisoner at the battle of Worcester; he at length made his escape (through the exertions of his lady) in the habit of an old woman. — The expence of the entertainment given by the Corporation to his Majesty, amounted to 434*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.**

* An old man of the name of Bottrill, who died about 30 or 40 years since, in Bishop-street, was an eye-witness of the above visit of James II. to this City; the particulars of which he has frequently related to persons who are still living.

The same year, Wm. Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, in North America, who attended James II. in his progress, through this part of the Kingdom, had an interview with the people called Quakers, at their Meeting house, in Hill-street, in this City.

This year, James II. sent a letter to this City, for new modelling the Body Corporate.

On December 11, 1688, the Princess Ann of Denmark, retiring from London for security, came to this City, accompanied by the Earl of Devonshire, the Bishop of London, and about 100 attendants.— Her Royal Highness entered the City at Bishopgate, where she was met by the Mayor (WILLIAM SNELL) the Aldermen, and the City Companies, with their streamers. T. Hopkins, Esq. the Steward, publicly addressed her Highness; she was then conducted to the house of R. Hopkins, Esq. near the Drapery-door, where she remained two days; from whence she proceeded to Warwick.

On June 5, 1690, King William came to Coventry, on his journey to Ireland, and was met at Willenhall-bridge, near this City, by the Sheriffs; and at New-gate, by the Mayor (JOHN YARDLEY) and Aldermen, with the different Companies in their liveries. The Mayor carried the sword; the Aldermen bore the cap of maintenance and the great mace, before his Majesty, and thus they proceeded through the City. His Majesty rode directly for-

ward to Packington Hall to dinner, and lay that night at Lichfield. The City did not honour his Majesty with any presents, because it was intimated, that they would be given to the Master of the Horse.

In 1694, the inhabitants of this City were numbered, on account of a payment which was levied by Parliament on births and burials; the number of inhabitants amounted to 6,710.

On September 5, in the same year, a great part of the town of Warwick was consumed by fire. The Mayor (JOHN MILLER) and Aldermen of this City, went from house to house, and to the different Companies, and collected about 180*l.* which they augmented to 200*l.* out of the City purse, and carried that sum to the relief of the inhabitants of Warwick: In the whole, a collection of 250*l.* was sent thither from this City.

In this year, an information was brought into the Court of Chancery, in the name of the Attorney-General (at the relation of the Company of Merchant Taylors, in London), on behalf of the inhabitants of Coventry, Northampton, Leicester, Nottingham, and Warwick, against the Corporation of this City, respecting the distribution of Sir Thomas White's Charity*.

* For particulars of this, and other Charities, bequeathed to this City, see a work entitled *An Account of the several Loans, Benefactions, and Charities, belonging to the City of Coventry.*

In 1696, Mr. Samuel Smith, a mercer, introduced the art of weaving tamminies into this City; which, by his ingenuity in dying and finishing, soon became a very considerable trade; several others afterwards, engaged in the same line of business, and it was supposed, that the returns upon the whole, amounted to the annual sum of 20,000*l*.

It has been already recorded, that in 1569, the Register of St. Michael's Parish was burned; in 1698, it was again destroyed by fire; being deposited in a cupboard in the vestry, under which the clerk imprudently placed some hot ashes, which, increasing to a flame, totally consumed the book, with many other articles of value.

The Presbyterian Dissenters, ever since such liberty had been granted by the late King James, had holden their meetings at St. Nicholas's Hall, in West Orchard, where they had erected seats and galleries; but as this was an inconvenient situation, they built, in 1701, a very decent and commodious Meeting House, in Smithford-street, near to the said Hall, which, with the purchase of the old houses, cost about 800*l*. Here it still remains.

This year, the Common Gaol of this City, was taken down and rebuilt; for which purpose, a levy was made upon the County of Coventry, for 300*l*. but the expence amounted to 350*l*.

The same year, a great contest took place in this

City, for the election of two Members of Parliament. According to the poll, Sir C. Hales, and E. Hopkins, Esq. had the majority of votes; but a scrutiny taking place, the Sheriffs adjudged E. Hopkins, and H. Neal, Esqrs. to be duly elected; but all the three candidates being returned to Parliament, Sir C. Hales petitioned the House of Commons. The Committee voted Sir C. Hales duly elected, and declared the Sheriffs guilty of making a false return. Sir C. Hales therefore, brought an action against the Sheriffs, and obtained a verdict for 600*l.* with costs, which in the end amounted to 800*l.* A proclamation was immediately issued, offering a reward of 50*l.* for apprehending either of the Sheriffs; upon which a messenger was dispatched by their friends to warn them of their danger, whilst the Crown sent another person with all possible speed to apprehend them; the two couriers arrived at Coventry, so nearly together, that when the Sheriffs' messenger turned the corner of Much Park-street, the messenger of the Queen was visible at the end of Dead-lane. A. Owen (one of the Sheriffs) had just time therefore, to secrete himself at the house of a friend, from whence he afterwards escaped into Holland, until the affair was settled.

In 1703, the weavers of worsted, separated themselves from the weavers of silk, and became afterwards a distinct company.

In 1704, Mr. Edward Rawson, an eminent brewer

of this City, finding that he could not be sufficiently supplied with water from the works at Swanswell, erected a new work at a spring, without Bishop-gate, which conducted the water, by pipes to his own brewhouse, in Cow-lane, and thus plentifully supplied himself and his neighbours also; this accommodation was completed at the expence of about 370*l*.

In the same year, Sir O. Bridgman, and E. Hopkins, Esq. were chosen Members of Parliament for this City, after a violent struggle, attended with much confusion.

In 1708, the Council of this City, found great difficulty in the choice of a Mayor. A portion of Sir Thomas White's estate, heretofore considered their private property, being taken from them, and the City very much in debt, in consequence of law-suits, &c. the Council could not allow the Mayor 50*l*. towards the charge of his office. Alderman Diston, at length, accepted the chair, on the last day of October, and was sworn into office on the following day.

In 1711, the Lord Chancellor made a decree, that the Corporation should settle the arrears (amounting to 224*l*. 1*s*. 3*d*.) due on account of Sir Thomas White's estate, since the decision of the House of Lords, in 1702. This sum the Corporation were unable to pay, though they sold their plate, &c. for that purpose. Upon this, the Lord Chancellor granted a sequestration to a Mr. Thomas Wright, and other

Commissioners, who seized St. Mary's Hall, with all its contents. The sword and mace were also ordered to be delivered up; but it does not appear that this order was complied with.

On November 1, in the same year, what was called the high party, privately assembled several countrymen at a public-house, near St. Michael's churchyard, with the design, that when the new Mayor (JOSEPH EBURNE) came to be sworn at St. Mary's Hall, they should all sally forth, and wrest the sword and mace from his party by violence. A spy was therefore dispatched into Spon-street, to observe the approach of the new Mayor. But the plan was frustrated entirely; for the party of the Corporation, the night before, had privately lodged the sword and mace, at a house, opposite to the Eagle and Child, in Fleet-street; where the Steward and other persons awaited Mr. Eburne's arrival. As soon, therefore, as he came to the door, the Steward and his companions came out with the sword, mace, &c.; the old and new Mayorsknelts together on cushions in the open street; and thus the ceremony of swearing in the new Magistrate was performed. The new Mayor then returned home. During the whole of this mayoralty, several attempts were made to obtain the sword and mace, but all without effect: upon one occasion it seems, to avoid danger, they were privately conveyed in a basket of wool to Canley.

In 1713, Sir C. Hales, and Sir F. Skipwith, Bart. were elected Members of Parliament for this City. Seven of the partizans of Mr. Neale (the opposition candidate) were placed on a wooden horse, with a sharp back, at the Gaol Hall door; only nine of his friends were permitted to poll.

The poll, which was formerly taken at or near the Gaol Hall, was in 1714, taken in a booth, built in the front of the Mayor's Parlour, in Cross Cheaping.

In 1717, the sequestration of Sir Thomas White's estate was suspended; the Corporation having proved to the Court of Chancery, that Mr. T. Wright, the prosecutor, had applied the revenues to his own use.

In 1719, the Women's Market was removed from the Great Butcher-Row to its present place, which before, was the back-yard of the Peacock-inn.

In 1720, the Lord Chancellor ordered the Trustees to execute a re-conveyance of the Charity estate to the Mayor, &c. of this City; as they had paid off their debt of 2241*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* and were now of such ability, that they might be safely entrusted with the receipts and distribution of the Charity in future. Two copies of the books relating to this Charity, were ordered to be kept in future, one by the Corporation, in a chest under three locks; and the other in a similar chest, in St. Michael's Vestry, the keys of this latter chest to be in the keeping of the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers, of the said pah.

In 1722, a violent party spirit displayed itself in the election of Members of Parliament for this City; Sir A. Oughton and J. Neale, Esq. were at length returned. Upon this, the opposition Candidates (Sir F. Skipwith, Bart. and the Hon. F. Craven) petitioned the House of Commons, who declared the election void. On a second contest, Oughton and Neale were again returned.

The same year, it was ordered by Parliament, that the Freemen of this City, should be enrolled by the Corporation.

In 1723, St. Michael's parish contained 1237 houses, and Trinity, 697.

In 1724, by the connivance of the Mayor (CALEB CORSON), some persons were privately admitted to inspect the writings and papers, &c. in the Treasury, of St. Mary's Hall, belonging to the Corporation, where they collected the materials for a book, entitled "An Account of the several Loans, Benefactions, and Charities, belonging to the City of Coventry."

In 1727, the Old Drapery, opposite St. Michael's Church, was pulled down, and the Half-Moon inn, built on its scite. The linen, flannel, and cloth fairs, were now removed to St. Mary's Hall.

In 1733, died the famous John Parkes, or Sparkes, a prize-fighter (a native of this City), of whom ho-

nourable mention is made in the 6th volume of the Spectator, No. 436. He was buried on the North side of St. Michael's church, under a flat stone, upon which was originally engraved the following inscription:—

To the memory of Mr. JOHN PARKES,

A native of this City.

He was a man of a mild disposition,

A Gladiator by profession;

Who after having fought 350 battles

In the principal parts of Europe,

With honour and applause,

At length quitted the stage, sheathed his sword,

And with Christian resignation,

Submitted to the Grand Victor,

In the 52d year of his age,

Anno 1733.

In January, 1734, one Thomas Wildey, a wool-comber, of this City, murdered his aunt, Susannah Wall, and Ann Shenton, her daughter, who kept the White Lion public-house, in Smithford-street, in a most inhuman manner. Wildey knowing that his aunt had received a considerable sum of money, went to her house at one o'clock in the morning, and knocked at the door: she mistaking him for a customer, arose and opened it, upon which he immediately threw her down and cut her throat.—He then went up stairs into A. Shenton's room, with a candle, and perceiving that she knew him, he immediately severed her head nearly from her body; he then examined a chest, out of which he took 5*l.* in half-pence, 40*l.* in silver, and about 50 guineas in gold.

He was soon after apprehended on suspicion; at length confessed his guilt, and was hanged in chains, on Whitley common, near this City.

In the beginning of 1734, St. John's, or Bablake Church, in this City, was repaired and consecrated.

In 1741, after a strongly contested election, the Earl of Euston, and W. Grove, Esq. were elected Members of Parliament for this City. One ox and nine sheep were roasted by their friends on the chairing-day. Mr. John Gamble (one of the Sheriffs) gained the appellation of "The Honest Sheriff," from his impartiality on this occasion.—On the 13th of August, he provided a great entertainment at the White Bear inn, and for the purpose of accommodating his friends, a booth was built in the yard; a numerous company of ladies and gentlemen attended on this occasion.

On Monday, July 20, 1741, the *Coventry Mercury* Newspaper, was first printed in this City, by Mr. Jopson.

On May 20, 1744, a shocking accident happened at the Red Lion inn, in Grey-friars-lane, in this City. The landlord, his wife, and another woman, being at supper, were all killed in an instant, by the fall of one of the upper chambers which was overloaded with grain,

In 1745, a company of soldiers was raised in this City, to resist the Scotch rebels.

In November, in the same year, a large body of the King's forces, marched through this City, in pursuit of the rebels; a part of which were quartered upon the inhabitants. The artillery, which halted on the flat, on the City side of the mount tree, in the Park, consisted of 16 cannon, 2 small mortars, 8 pontoons, or tin flat-bottomed boats, 8 powder carts, 33 ammunition tumbrils, a blacksmith's shop, 14 waggons, 6 spare carriages, 250 horses, 50 artillery-men, 20 officers, and 8 artificers. The Duke of Cumberland followed soon after, and took the command of the army at Lichfield.

In 1747, Lord Petersham and W. Grove, Esq. were returned Members of Parliament for this City. Lord P. afterwards vacated his seat, and S. Greathead, Esq. was chosen in his room.—This was a severely contested election; the party of this latter Gentleman, with drag hooks and red-hot chains, pulled down and destroyed the booth.

The same year, died Mr. Thomas Parkes, of this City, brother to the invincible Gladiator, J. Parkes, and second only to him.

By Bradford's Survey, in 1748 and 1749, Coventry appears to have contained 2,065 houses, and 12,117 inhabitants.

In 1753, the upper part of the Cross, being thought in a dangerous state, was entirely taken down.

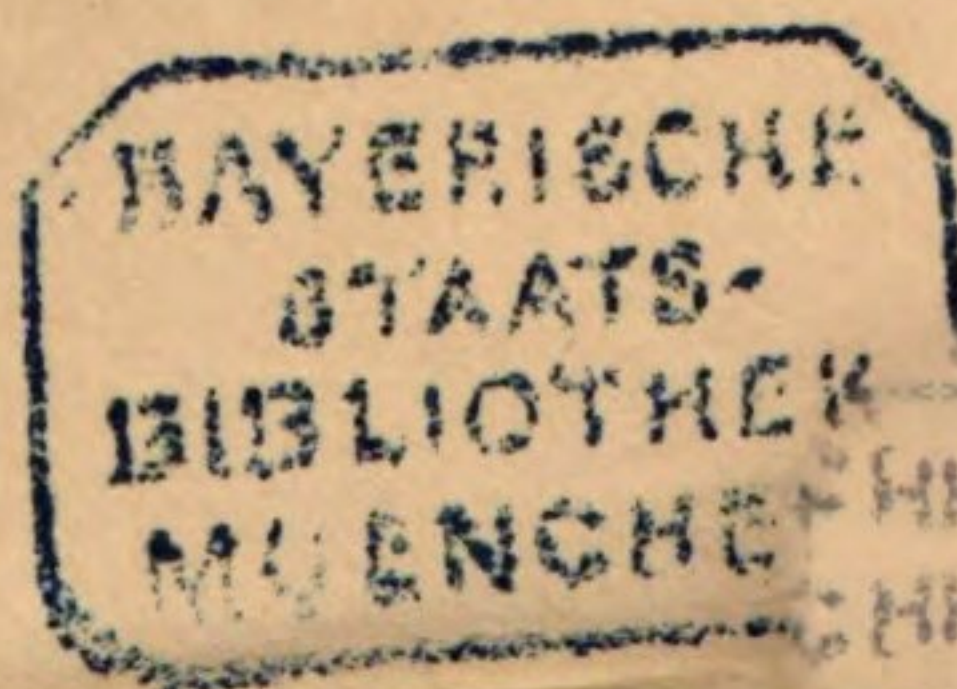
On August 12, 1755, there were horse-races in Coventry Park.—S. Greathead, Esq. Steward.

The floor of St. Mary's Hall, was until this time laid with brick (the upper part, on which the Mayor's table was placed, alone excepted); but in order to accommodate the company, invited this year to the feast, it was new floored with boards, by order of JOHN HEWITT, the Mayor.—Nearly 600 persons were invited to this festivity.

In the evening of April 16, 1757, a soldier, belonging to General Steuart's regiment, quartered in this City, was shot for desertion, against the Park wall, near the end of Little Park-street; and in the following June, another soldier of the same regiment, was shot for the same offence, in the same place.

On Thursday, October 30, 1760, his present Majesty George III. was proclaimed King. The morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells; and about two o'clock, the Corporation and the several Companies, assembled at St. Mary's Hall, from whence they proceeded with streamers displayed, and music playing, to Cross Cheaping, where the proclamation was read to a vast concourse of people, assembled on the occasion. After which, several barrels of ale were given to the populace, and the evening concluded with every demonstration of joy.

September 22, 1761, being the day appointed for the ceremony of their Majesties Coronation, the greatest joy was demonstrated by all ranks of people in this City. The morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells, which continued the whole day. A procession was made at noon by the Mayor (JOHN HEWITT) and Aldermen, with the different Companies, preceded by their respective bands of music, streamers, and ensigns; the cavalcade was closed by the fraternity of free-masons in their proper badges, and a numerous Company of the Gentlemen of the City, who united themselves under the name of the Independent Company; the music playing *God save the King*, and the populace joining very heartily in the chorus. The procession was so long, that it was three-quarters of an hour in passing any given point at a moderate pace. Beautiful cockades of coronation ribbon and laurel were worn on the occasion; and the whole displayed the gayest and most magnificent appearance ever seen in this part of the kingdom. The Gentlemen, on their return to St. Mary's Hall (at the invitation of the Body Corporate), drank the health of their Majesties, and all the Royal Family. Many other loyal and constitutional toasts were also adopted, amidst loud acclamations of *Long live the King and Queen, &c.* After the procession was ended, the conduits ran red and white wine for some considerable time; beer also was given to the populace; the afternoon was celebrated with the



utmost gaiety by all distinctions of people, and several sheep, geese, &c. were roasted in the public streets. At dusk, a curious display of fire-works was intended to be exhibited, for which purpose a scaffold was erected, with a handsome painting of the King and Queen in front, embellished with many hieroglyphic ornaments; but while playing off a wheel-rocket, a spark unluckily fell amongst the collection, and the greatest part blew up, causing a very great consternation; but happily no person received any serious injury. A most brilliant illumination followed, which was interspersed with many curious designs, and at ten o'clock the whole concluded with a ball.

In 1762, New-gate was taken down.

On August 14, the same year, the important news of the birth of a Prince, being known, an invitation was sent by the Mayor (THOMAS BROCKHURST) to the principal Gentlemen in this City, requesting their attendance at the Mayor's Parlour, to drink the healths of his Majesty, the Queen, the young Prince, and all the Royal Family. The conduits ran wine for some time; beer was given to the populace; a large bonfire was made; and many other marks of joy were demonstrated.

On December 23, 1763, About two yards of the top of Grey-friars spire, in this City, was blown down by a high wind; it had been displaced two or three inches several years before.

About this time, Swine's Cross, which stood in Bishop-street, opposite Silver-street end, was taken down.

In 1765, Gosford-gate was taken down.

September 25, a body of near 200 colliers came to this City from Bedworth, who broke open the warehouses of several Cheese-factors, and took away the contents. After much bustle and confusion, they at length returned home.

In 1767, Spon-bridge was built.

In 1769, St. Michael's spire was repaired.

On February 12, 1771, a dreadful accident happened at the house of Mr. Showell, a grocer, at the corner of the Women's Market (opposite the Peacock stables); the family went out in the evening, and left the servant maid at home, who imprudently took a candle into a warehouse adjoining the shop; a spark by accident fell into a barrel of gunpowder, which stood underneath, and blew the girl to the opposite side of the way, with a dreadful explosion; she languished a few days and died; the house was nearly destroyed, and the shock was felt in most parts of the City.

In the same year, that beautiful monument of antiquity, Spon-gate, was taken down; the Cross also, was removed at the same time.—The hollow-way,

at Spon-end, was filled up with the ruins of these buildings.

On July 16, this year, Grey-friars spire was repaired, and a gilt ball and vane placed on its summit.

In March, 1772, one Mary Clues, of Gosford-street, nearly opposite New Court, was found almost consumed by fire, in consequence of an accident of a most uncommon nature. She had been confined to her bed by an illness, which was the consequence of her intemperance. The room was floored with brick, the bed was furnished with only one curtain, and that next the window. The fire-place was on the other side of the room. She was left the evening before the accident, with only two small pieces of coal in the hind part of the grate, and a rush-light on a chair, at the head of her bed. The next morning a great smoke was perceived to issue from the room. On bursting open the door, some flames appeared, which were soon extinguished. Her remains lay on the floor; the furniture of the room was only slightly damaged; the bedstead was superficially burnt, but neither sheets, nor bed, nor blankets, were destroyed. The solution of this phænomenon is somewhat singular: Mrs. Clues was excessively addicted to dram-drinking; she occasionally drank a quart, either of rum, or of anise-seed water, daily; and by these means, filling her veins with pure spirits, she became inflammable as a lamp. She rolled, as

is supposed, out of bed, took fire from the candle, and in about two hours was totally burnt, her thighs and one leg excepted, and nothing was left but her bones, in a complete state of calcination. It is remarkable, that whilst the corps was conveyed to the village of Stoke, near Coventry, for interment, it was accompanied on its passage, by a vast quantity of flies*.^a

This year, the Gaol of this City being in a decayed state, and constructed upon a plan too confined, was re-built upon a more enlarged scale.

On May 20, 1773, the river Sherbourn greatly overflowed its banks, and laid a part of the City under water, to the height of nearly seven feet.

On November 24, in the same year, Mr. Siddons was married to Miss Kemble, in St. Michael's church; the lady so justly celebrated at present, for her dramatic excellence and superiority.

On November 11, 1774, the eight bells of St. Michael's church, were re-cast into ten, by Pack and

* See Philos. Trans. 64, part i. p. 340.—This extraordinary case is not the only instance shewing the *igneous* quality of the human body, in people addicted to the use of spirituous liquors. Dr. Trotter, in his Essay on Drunkenness, states the cases of the Countess Cornelia Bandi, aged 62, of the town of Cesena.—A woman at Paris.—Grace Pitt, wife of a fishmonger, Ipswich, aged 60.—The wife of one Sieur Millet, at Rheims.—Madame De Boiseon, 80 years of age.—Mademoiselle Thuara, of Caen, &c.

Chapman, and hung by R. Turner, of London. The weight amounted to 6 tons, 18 cwt. 2 qrs. 11 lb.

In this year, the effigy of *Peeping Tom*, was removed from the house at the corner of Grey-friars-lane, and placed in another house, adjoining the King's-Head-inn.

In 1775, the Drapers' Hall, a dark gloomy edifice, was taken down, and re-built in a very elegant manner; the front is of stone, ornamented with Tuscan pilasters. This Hall is $16\frac{1}{2}$ yards in length, and 8 yards 1 foot in breadth.

This year, the Mayor's Parlour was, in part, taken down and re-built, at the expence of nearly 600*l*.

On December 31, 1778, a violent tempestuous wind blew in one of the windows of Trinity Church, and greatly shattered the outside of the building. A part of the battlements of St. Michael's Church was blown down, and St. John's suffered in a similar manner.

In September, 1779, a new harmonious set of chimes was placed in St. Michael's steeple, made by Mr. Worton, of Birmingham, at the expence of 300*l*.

In 1780, an Act of Parliament was passed for better regulating the Elections, and swearing the Freemen, of Coventry.

In the same year, Messrs. Noxon and Butler,

the two Sheriffs of this City, suffered a short imprisonment in Newgate, as it is said, for their misconduct at the election of Members of Parliament to represent this City.

The same year, a violent disturbance took place at an election, in the front of the booth, in Cross Cheaping, between the rival parties, which was termed the *Bludgeon Fight*.

In October, 1781, Greyfriars-gate was taken down.

In 1782, a tree called Wightwick's elm, which stood on the road leading to Stivichall, was cut down.

In 1783, a double row of houses at the South-west angle of St. Michael's church-yard, was taken down.

In 1784, the velvet hat and cap of maintenance were altered.

In 1785, the County Hall was built.

This year, the Mayoress's Parlour, in St. Mary's Hall, was altered, and a new window inserted on the South side.

Sunday Schools were now first established in this City.

In February, this year, a golden cup and cover, capable of containing six quarts, and which cost 100 guineas, were presented to the Right Hon. Lord Sheffield, by the Freemen of this City; on one side

were the armorial bearings of his Lordship, on the other the following inscription:—

To JOHN LORD SHEFFIELD,
FROM THE
Independent FREEMEN of Coventry,
In testimony of their approbation of his conduct in Parliament.
MDCCLXXXIV.

In 1786, the East end of Trinity Church was taken down and re-built.

In the night of June 23, the same year, some sacrilegious villains broke into St. Michael's church, from whence they proceeded to the vestry, wrenched open the door, and stole a box containing the communion plate, together with the crimson velvet hangings, and a rich gold fringe and tassels, belonging to the pulpit and reading desk.

In 1787, the row of trees, leading from the Park-hollow to Quinton pool, was cut down.

On June 6, in the same year, the new part of St. Michael's Church-yard, opposite the Gaol Hall, was consecrated by the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry.

In 1788, the Navigation Office was built at the upper part of Bishop-street.

March 13, 1789, being the day fixed for celebrating his Majesty's happy recovery from a dangerous illness, the morning was ushered in by ringing of bells at the different churches, and in the evening, every street and avenue in the City, presented a ge-

neral display of brilliancy; the front of the Rotation Office was beautifully illuminated, and the inscription of "*Long live the King,*" under a superb crown and sceptre, displayed elegant lustre in transparency. Various crowns, cyphers, and labels were exhibited in every street of the City, and never was the effusion of joy more general. The Half Moon tavern was beautifully illuminated, with festoons of flowers, and the letters G. R. painted on glass;—in the centre window, a transparent painting, included a medallion of his Majesty, encircled with rays of glory, and supported on a pedestal, on which was inscribed, "*Health to the King, and Success to the Coventry Manufactory;*" above was a beautiful festoon of roses, depending from the crown, on each side of which was the truly heartfelt emotion of gratitude, expressed in these words, "*Britons rejoice.*"—Very large bonfires were lighted up in several parts of the City; and the evening concluded with ringing of bells, fire-works, and every demonstration of joy and exultation on this happy occasion.

On December 12, this year, died Mr. Edwards, a builder, who bequeathed considerable sums of money to different public Charities, in this City.—By his own direction, a funeral peal, in remembrance of him, is annually rung on old new-year's day.

On September 24, 1792, an original picture of his Majesty, George III. at full length, in the robes of

the order of the garter, was placed in St. Mary's Hall. It was painted by Mr. Lawrence, portrait-painter to the King, and is esteemed an excellent likeness. The elegant frame was made by Mr. Wyatt, of Oxford-street. The picture and frame cost upwards of 500*l.* and were a present to the Corporation, from the Right Hon. Lord Eardley, and J. Wilmot, Esq. at that time, Members of Parliament for this City.

On January 1, 1793, the effigy of Tom Paine, with the Rights of Man, fastened upon his breast, was placed in a cart (with a chimney-sweeper, as his companion), and drawn through all the principal streets of this City; he was then taken to Cross Cheaping, where a gibbet had been previously erected for his reception; where after hanging the usual time, a fire was lighted under the gallows, which consumed him instantly to ashes, amidst the acclamations of a loyal multitude of surrounding spectators, who all joined heartily in the chorus of *God save the King.*

On June 29, in the same year, the Bishop of the Diocese consecrated a piece of land adjoining to St. Michael's church-yard; and on the following Sunday, preached a sermon in the said church.

The Barracks were built on the site of the Bull inn.

In February, 1794, the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, was installed Dean of Durham.

At a meeting of the Committee, for conducting the repairs of St. Michael's church and steeple, held March 4, 1794, Mr. Potter, the architect, reported, that the bells, if placed in their former situation, would materially injure the tower; but that a frame-work within the tower might be so constructed, as to contain the bells without injury to the building; the expence was rated at 3,752*l*.—The repairs were completed, and the bells re-hung in the following December.

In February, 1795, the Park began to be inclosed.

In March, 1797, an Association of the inhabitants of this City, was formed into two troops of cavalry, and three companies of infantry.

In February, 1798, a soup institution was first established in this City, for the benefit of the poor inhabitants, who were supplied with a quart of soup and a slice of bread for 1*d*.

In the same year, several thousand pounds were subscribed by the inhabitants of this City and neighbourhood, in aid of Government.

On September 8, 1800, a scene of confusion took place in this City, on account of the dearness of provisions; through the interference however of the magistrates, aided by the 17th light dragoons, and the volunteer cavalry and infantry of the City, it terminated without any very serious mischief.

On November 9, in the same year, the river Sherbourn greatly overflowed its channel, and did considerable damage.

June 20, 1801, an Act of Parliament was passed for uniting the Parishes of St. Michael and the Holy Trinity, in this City, and for the better employment and more comfortable provision of the poor.

Under a clause of what was called the Population Act, the number of inhabitants was taken the same year.—This City was reported to contain 2,930 houses, and 16,049 inhabitants; the County of the City, 5,547 inhabitants: but there must have been a great error in the return of the population of this City, which both from previous and subsequent calculations, may be safely estimated at about 24,000.

On April 19, 1802, owing to a definitive treaty of peace having been previously signed between this Country and France, a grand public procession took place through the principal streets of this City.—The Mayor (JOHN MULLIS) and Aldermen, were accompanied by the different Companies of the Military Association, and Benefit Societies, together with the inhabitants of this City and neighbourhood; the evening concluded with an illumination.

On September 3, in this year, Lord Nelson, accompanied by Sir William and Lady Hamilton, Dr. Nelson, his lady, and son, arrived at the King's

Head inn, in this City, from Warwick; they were received with the most heartfelt acclamations, ringing of bells, &c. The Mayor and Aldermen waited on the gallant hero, and the party were received in the politest manner.

Trinity steeple was repaired.

On March 30, 1803, N. Jefferys, Esq. one of the Members of Parliament for this City, being disqualified by a decision of a Committee of the House of Commons, a new election took place, when P. Moore, Esq. became the Representative of this City.

In January, 1805, a company of volunteers was raised in this City, to join the First Regiment of Warwickshire Volunteer Infantry.

In May, the same year, in consequence of the death of Captain Barlow, one of the Members of this City, a new election took place, when W. Mills, Esq. was returned to Parliament.

On November 12, 1806, P. Moore, and W. Mills, Esqrs. were re-elected Members of Parliament for this City, without opposition.

In 1807, the bells in St. Michael's steeple, were re-hung, on an improved plan, upon the framework, erected within the tower, in 1794. The tenor,

weighing upwards of 32 cwt. was re-cast by Mr. Briant, of Hertford; and the whole peal was hung by this person and Mr. Over, of Rugby.

In May, 1807, P. Moore, and W. Mills, Esqrs. were re-elected Members of Parliament for this City.

On September 18, 1807, the Prince of Wales, and Duke of Sussex, passed through this City, about seven in the evening, amidst the ringing of bells, &c. on their route from Ragley, the seat of the Marquis of Hertford, to Comb Abbey, the seat of the Earl of Craven, near this City.

A deputation from the Corporation of this City, waited on his Royal Highness at Comb Abbey, and presented to him the following truly loyal and dutiful Address:—

*To his Royal Highness George Frederick, Prince
of Wales.*

The humble Address of the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty of the City of Coventry.

“ Most Illustrious Sir,

“ YOUR Royal Highness having graciously condescended to afford us the enviable and proud opportunity of approaching your Royal Person, to express our devotion and attachment to the Heir Apparent of the British Empire, and to your Royal Highness’s Brother, the Duke of Sussex.

“ We beg to assure your Royal Highness, that, we venerate those principles which placed your august House on the Throne of these Realms—and we most ardently pray, that

increased happiness and length of years, may yet distinguish the Reign of our revered and beloved Sovereign, and, that when Providence shall so ordain it, your Royal Highness may ascend a Throne fortified with the loyalty, love, and affection of a free, united, and happy people. Given under our common seal, the twenty-first day of September, 1807.

“ BASIL GOODE, MAYOR.”

To the above Address his Royal Highness, with his usual condescension, dignity, and ease, returned the following answer:—

To the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty of the City of Coventry.

“ I desire you to believe, that nothing can be more flattering than the warm and animated expressions of welcome, with which you have received me in the neighbourhood of your prosperous City.—The loyalty which the Corporation and Citizens of Coventry have ever demonstrated towards the King, my Father, and their affectionate attachment to myself and to my family, cannot fail to have made a deep and lasting impression; and it is most truly grateful to my heart to observe these sentiments pervade every part of the country and all ranks of the people, to promote whose happiness, under the blessing of our glorious Constitution, must ever, form the dearest interest of my life. In these feelings, and in affection and gratitude, I am joined by my brother, the Duke of Sussex; as well, as in the sense I entertain of this mark of your attention.”

After the ceremony was over, the deputation, consisting of the Mayor, four Aldermen, and the Town-Clerk, were invited by the noble and hospitable owner of Comb Abbey, to a very sumptuous repast, consisting of many of the delicacies of the season and the most excellent wines. His Royal Highness or-

dered a donation of 100 guineas, and his brother, the Duke of Sussex, 40 guineas, to be distributed by the Mayor and Corporation; which was done to four public charities, in the proportion of 35 guineas to each.

On the following Wednesday, the Royal Brothers left Comb, and passed through this City, on their way to Ombersley Court, Worcestershire, the seat of the Marchioness of Downshire.

A Second Volunteer Company was raised in this City, to join the First Regiment of Warwickshire Volunteer Infantry.

On November 24, 1808, Louis XVIII. of France, and his suite, arrived in two carriages, at the King's Head inn, in this City, where they exchanged horses. They were on their return from a visit to the Marquis of Stafford and Lord Talbot, where they had remained several days.

The two Companies of Coventry Volunteers, with their Regiment, entered into the First Regiment of Warwickshire Local Militia, in 1809.

On June 2, 1809, at the Show Fair, the following was the order of the procession:—But previous thereto, the Mayor (BASIL GOODE), with the Charter Officers of this City, and their followers, attended divine service at Trinity church, where a sermon was

preached; after which the grand cavalcade proceeded from the Church-yard, at twelve o'clock, in the following order:—

GRAND PROCESSION
OF
THE SHOW FAIR,

Through Hay-lane, Little Park-street, St. John's-street, Much Park-street, where the fair was proclaimed; Jordanwell, Gosford-street, where the fair was proclaimed; Far Gosford-street, High-street, where the Bablake boys sang; Spon-street, West Orchard, where the Bablake boys sang; Well-street, Bishop-street, Cross Cheaping, where the Bablake boys sang; High-street, and returned through Hay-lane, to Trinity Church-yard.

Twelve Guards—two and two.

SAINT GEORGE,

IN ARMOUR.

TWO BUGLE HORNS.

City Streamer.

Two City Followers.

City Streamer.

Grand Band of Music, belonging to the 14th Lt. Dragoons.

High Constable.

LADY GODIVA,

City Cryer and Beadle on each side.

Mayor's Cryer.

City Bailiffs.

City Maces.

SWORD AND MACE.

Mayor's Followers.

HISTORY OF

The Right Worshipful

THE MAYOR.

ALDERMEN.

Sheriffs Followers.

SHERIFFS.

Common Council.

Chamberlains and Followers.

Wardens and Followers.

GRAND BAND OF MUSIC,

Belonging to the 1st Regiment of Warwickshire Local Militia.

COMPANIES.

Mercers.—Streamer, Master, and Follower.*Drapers.*—Streamer, Master, and Followers.*Clothiers.*—Streamer, Master, and Follower.*Four Drums and Fifes.**Blacksmiths.*—Streamer, Master, and Follower.*Tailors.*—Streamer, Master, and Follower.*Cappers.*—Streamer, Master, and Follower.*Butchers.*—Streamer, Master, and Followers.

GRAND BAND OF MUSIC,

*Belonging to the Stonely Volunteers.**Fellmongers.*—Streamer, Master, and Followers.*Carpenters.*—Streamer, Master, and Follower.*Cordwainers.*—Streamer, Master, and Follower.*Four Drums and Fifes.**Bakers.*—Streamer, Master, and Follower,*Weavers.*—Streamer, Master, and Follower.*Silk Weavers.*—Streamer, Master, and Follower.*Grand Band of Music.**Woolcombers.*—Streamer, Master, and Follower.

SHEPHERD AND SHEPHERDESS,

With a Dog, Lamb, &c.

JASON,

With a Golden Fleece, and drawn Sword.

Five Wool Sorters.

BISHOP BLAZE

AND WOOLCOMBERS,

In their respective uniforms.

FOUR DRUMS AND FIFES.

October 25, 1809, being the fiftieth anniversary of the accession of our gracious Sovereign George III. to the throne, no where, perhaps, was there manifested a greater spirit of loyalty and unanimity on this occasion, than in the City of Coventry. At half-past five o'clock in the morning, the propitious day was ushered in by the band belonging to the Fourteenth Regiment of Light Dragoons, which played *God save the King*. At six o'clock, the bells at the different churches commenced their melodious peals, and continued ringing, with the exception of short intervals, throughout the whole of the day. —The Mayor and Corporation publicly attended divine service, in the morning, at St. Michael's church, and the service appointed by Government was performed in the other churches. At one o'clock, the non-commissioned Officers of the First Warwickshire Regiment of Local Militia fired three excellent vollies in Cross Cheaping, in honour of the day. A liberal subscription had been previously entered into

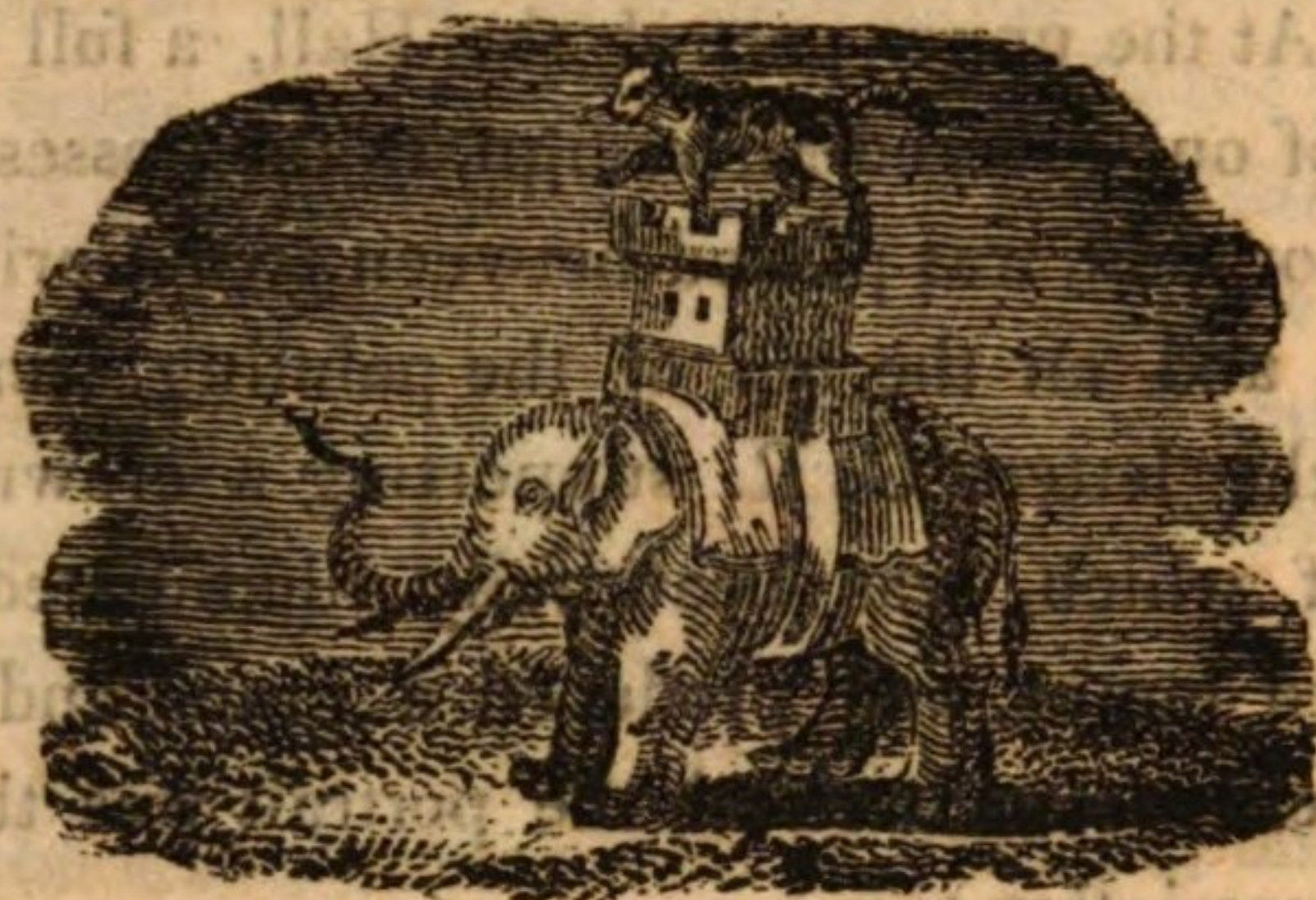
by the inhabitants, amounting to 756*l.* 5*s.* by which upwards of 11,000 individuals were supplied with meat, bread, and ale. All the debtors in the gaol were released from their confinement; and, as the enlargement of the criminal prisoners could not be obtained consistently with the laws and safety of the country, they were, both in Gaol and Bridewell, provided with an ample supply of roast beef; and five shillings were given to each person. The boys belonging to the Bablake school received sixpence each, and a plentiful supply of roast beef and plumb pudding. The women at Ford's, and the old men at Bablake Hospitals, severally received two shillings each. The forty girls belonging to the Blue Coat Charity School, had a donation of two shillings each, gratuitously given by the Trustees of that charity. The poor of the House of Industry were most munificently regaled with roast beef, plumb puddings, and ale; the liberal donation of Lord Grey and the Officers of the Fourth Warwickshire Regiment of Local Militia. An excellent supper of old English cheer, roast beef, plumb pudding, and ale, was given at the Barracks, by the Officers of the 14th Dragoons, to the men; a capital display of fire-works was also exhibited, and the hospital was most beautifully illuminated. A numerous company, consisting of nearly 100 persons, dined together, at St. Mary's Hall, B. Goode, Esq. Mayor, in the chair. The services of the military band, belonging to the 14th

regiment of Light Dragoons, together with the decorations of the Hall, tended much to enliven the festive scene. At the upper part of the Hall, a full length portrait of our revered Sovereign, in the possession of the Corporation, was placed between two Corinthian columns, and on the top of the painting, were displayed the letters G. R. supporting a crown; the whole of which, was beautifully illuminated with variegated lamps, and produced a grand and magnificent effect: underneath the portrait was the following inscription:—

“ We ne’er shall look upon his like again.”

Many loyal and constitutional toasts exhilarated the scene, and the evening concluded with a ball. Many other dinners were provided for select parties, at the different inns in the City. A grand display of fireworks was exhibited in Cross Cheaping, and (in every part of the town) the evening concluded with bonfires and the roasting of sheep*.

* See a work entitled “Particulars of the National Jubilee.”



GOVERNMENT, AND CONSTITUTION OF THE CITY.

THIS City is governed by a Mayor, ten Aldermen (to each of whom a ward is assigned), and twenty Common Council. The Mayor, and Aldermen are Justices of the Peace for the City and County. The Mayor and two of the Aldermen, elected by the Mayor and Council, are of the Quorum.*

The Great Leet, or View of Frankpledge, is held within one month after Michaelmas, at the County Hall.—The Charter Officers are chosen the same day, in the old Council House, at St. Mary's Hall, and sworn, as directed by the charter, on the 1st of November, being All Saints Day.

* For an account of the Charter, granted by James I. to this City, see page 62.

The Officers chosen for the present year,

ARE

B. Goode, Esq. 4th time, *Mayor*.

His Grace the Duke of Grafton, *Recorder*.

Edward Inge, Esq. *Coroner*.

Edmund Dayrell, Esq. *Steward*.

Mr. N. Merridew, and Mr. S. Carter, *Sheriffs*.

Mr. W. Howard, and Mr. W. Lambly, *Chamberlains*.

Mr. W. Tilt, and Mr. S. Masters, *Wardens*.

NAMES OF THE PRESENT ALDERMEN.

G. Howlette,

S. Whitwell,

N. Norman,

J. Mullis,

J. Williamson.

F. Perkins, and

B. Butterworth,

B. Goode, Esqrs.

W. Stanbridge,

The Corporation hold the Quarter Sessions in the same manner and with the same powers, as Counties at large; and an adjournment is generally made to the Mayor's Parlour on the subsequent Friday; this adjournment is continued to the last Friday in each month, until the ensuing General Quarter Sessions. The Mayor, or one of the Aldermen, in rotation, likewise attends at the Mayor's Parlour, every day, except on Fridays and Sundays, to transact public business.

Among the privileges belonging to the Magistrates, it has unfortunately, that of life and death; on which account, the Judge who travels the midland circuit, is always engaged to take that disagreeable office from them.^a

The insignia of the Corporation, are a sword, a hat, and cap of maintenance, a great mace, and two smaller ones; the robes of the Aldermen are scarlet lined with fur.

NAMES OF THE ALDERMEN. FREEMEN.

The number of Freemen belonging to this City, in whom is vested the right of electing the public Representatives, amounts to nearly 3000.—A Citizen is entitled to his freedom by a servitude of seven years to one of the same trade, in the City or Suburbs; and has the privilege also of turning two horses and a cow, or two cows and a horse, on the Lammas Grounds and Commons, which consist of nearly 3000 acres, lying around and near the City. On Lammas day, the Chamberlains, accompanied by a number of the inhabitants, ride in procession to assert these liberties, agreeably to annual custom, and take care that the Lammas Grounds are laid open for the pasturing the cattle of the Freemen—thus they continue until the following Candlemas.

REPRESENTATIVES.

The City sends two Representatives to Parliament who are chosen by the Freemen, and returned by the Sheriffs. Coventry enjoyed this privilege, during the four first Parliaments of Edward I. It was however, occasionally interrupted, until 1453, when it was again asserted; and has continued ever since to this day.^a

FOR several centuries Coventry, on account of its manufactures, was reckoned a rich and flourishing City. The trade consisted originally, of the manufacture of cloth, caps, and bonnets, which attained a great degree of consequence so early as 1436.—The making of woollen and broad cloths continued the staple manufacture of Coventry, until 1595, when a war broke out between England and France, which entirely ruined the sale of this manufacture, by destroying the Turkey trade; although it had probably been for some time before in a declining state.—About the beginning of the 18th century, the manufacture of striped and mixed tannies was introduced by Mr. Samuel Smith, a merchant of this City, to which

TRADE, &c.

Fair City—

For royal grants, and silken arts renown'd!
 To thee the docile youth repair, and learn
 With sidelong glance, and nimble stroke to ply
 The flitting shuttle, while their active feet,
 In mystic movements, press the subtle stops
 Of the loom's complicated frame; contriv'd
 From the loose thread, to form, with wond'rous art,
 A texture close, inwrought with choice device
 Of flow'r, or foliage gay, to the rich stuff,
 Of silky web, imparting fairer worth.

Jago's Edge Hill.

FOR several centuries Coventry, on account of its manufactures, was esteemed a rich and flourishing City. The trade consisted, originally, of the manufacture of cloth, caps, and bonnets, which attained a great degree of consequence so early as 1436.—The making of woollen and broad cloths continued the staple manufacture of Coventry, until 1694, when a war broke out between England and France, which entirely ruined the sale of this manufacture, by destroying the Turkey trade; although it had probably been for some time before in a declining state.—About the beginning of the 18th century, the manufacture of striped and mixed tammies was introduced by Mr. Samuel Smith, a mercer of this City, to which

was added the making of camblets, shalloons, calimancoes, &c.; this trade proved a very extensive and profitable concern to the proprietors for some time; but has declined very much within the last 20 years, and is now almost totally lost.—This pursuit, in turn, was followed by the texture of gauzes and broad silks. The principal manufactures at present, are those of ribbons and watches.

In the beginning, or middle of the 16th century, Coventry had a flourishing manufacture of blue thread, the art of making which was lost before the year 1581. So famous indeed was this thread, for the permanence of its dye, that *True as Coventry blue**, became a proverbial expression.^a

About one hundred years since, the manufacture of ribbons was introduced; and for the first 30 years, rewarded the industry of its proprietors with vast fortunes; since which time, it has extended and flourished to a very great degree, and is supposed at present to employ, at least, 16,000 people, in the City, and neighbouring towns and villages! About 18 or 20 traders, in Coventry, have houses also in London, to which they send up every week, great quantities of ribbons. An extensive trade in these articles is carried on with foreign countries, which

* In old songs it is called *Coyntrie*. Percy, vol. 1, p. 309, in the song of Dowsabell.

has always been regarded as the most material object of the manufacturers.^a

In October, 1808, there were 2819 silk and ribbon looms in this City.

A mint of coinage was anciently in Coventry, founded by Edward IV. in which groats were coined.—(See also page 79.)

The principal inns in this City, are the King's Head, White Bear, and Castle; at these places the mails, stage coaches, &c. generally exchange horses. The great road from London to Liverpool passes through this City.

FAIRS.

Henry VI. granted a charter to Coventry, for holding a fair annually on the Friday after Corpus Christi day, to continue eight days.—James I. also granted a charter for holding three different fairs, annually, one, on the 21st of October, to continue three days; another, on the 21st of April, and two following days; and the last, on the 16th of August, and two following days, with a court of piedpowder; this last is called the cheese fair. Another, called the fish fair, was formerly held on the first day in Lent.^b—But owing to the alteration of the stile, the days are now altered.

CANAL.

Near Bishop-street, is the head of the Oxford and Coventry Canals, the formation of which began in 1768. In one direction, this work passes the neighbouring collieries of Hawkesbury, and extends to Brinklow, Hillmorton, and Braunston, in Northamptonshire, and leaving Banbury, concludes at Oxford. Another branch from Coventry, passes Atherstone and Tamworth, unites with the Great Staffordshire Canal, on Fradley Heath, three miles N. E. of Lichfield, and by means of the Stourport Canal, forms the union of the Thames, the Severn, and the Trent.^a

THE PRIORY.

MONASTIC INSTITUTIONS began to spread in the Western as well as in the Eastern churches, soon after the legal establishment of Christianity throughout the Roman empire by Constantine the Great. We have indisputable proofs that this system of life was established in Britain, soon after the period in question. Our Saxon ancestors received it with the first seeds of Christianity; their first apostles were in general monks of that more regular and organized order, of which St. Benedict was the founder. The object of this institution may be learned from the rules of that Saint, whose principles led his disciples to withdraw as much as possible from all dangerous temptations, and to learn and practice the gospel lessons in their original strictness and perfection. Its primary and essential traits were a community of property, the observance of perpetual chastity, and a life led in obedience to the will of their religious superiors.—See *Milner's Winchester*.

What bears the name of the Priory, in Coventry, is a house of much later date than that of the Monastery; it seems however to have been built on some

part of the scite of that great foundation, and is situated on the South side of the river Sherbourn.^b

About the year 1043, Earl Leofric and his Countess Godiva more than repaired the loss sustained by the destruction of the famous Saxon Nunnery, in 1016, and founded in its stead a most magnificent Monastery. Here they placed an Abbot and twenty-four monks of the Benedictine order; enriched the very walls of the church with massy gold and silver, endowed it with that half of the town in which it stood, in addition to many other very valuable privileges and twenty-four manors, to which deed the King, with many other persons of high rank, were admitted as public witnesses. This endowment was made by the advice of King Edward the Confessor, and Pope Alexander; and the church itself was dedicated to the honour of God, the Virgin Mary, St. Peter, St. Osburg, and all Saints.^b

Here the pious founders were buried in the porch, according to the custom of those times, for the distasteful and dangerous practice of church interment did not prevail until a long time after that period.^a

The dress of the monks of this order, consisted of a loose black coat, divided down to the heels, with a cowl or hood for the head; this cowl which fell over their shoulders was shorter than some others at that time in use; beneath these were worn a woollen

white coat, and hair shirt with boots as high as the knees; their heads also were in part shaven.^b

Among the sacred furniture of this religious residence, was an image of the Virgin Mary, adorned with a chain of gold, and enriched with gems bestowed by the Countess Godiva, on her death-bed: to this image the devotees were enjoined to offer up prayers numerous as the precious stones which it contained. An arm also, of St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, was placed in a silver shrine, upon which was inscribed the following information—that it was purchased by Agelnethus, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1020, from the Pope, at Rome, for the sum of one talent of silver, and 200 talents of gold.^b

The first Abbot was Leofwin; this dignity however, was of short duration; for on the removal of the See from Chester to Coventry, in 1095, by Robert de Limesie, under authority of a Bull from Pope Paschal I. that office was suppressed, by which event, the Bishop became supreme head of the house. A Prior was afterwards appointed, but the honour of the house was unimpaired; for the Priors became Barons in Parliament, as all the preceding Abbots had been; and the place was denominated a mitred abbey. Peter, the first prelate, was however, more attracted by the wealth of the house, than influenced by the duties of his station; for he not only suffered the buildings to decay for want of repairs,

but, at one time, purloined silver, from a beam which supported the shrines, worth 500 marks, that he might be enabled to carry on his intrigues at Rome, against his inferior brethren, the monks. By this system of tyrannical cruelty, the spirits of the poor monks became entirely depressed, every kind of learning was discouraged, and so deplorable was the general aspect of the affairs of the Monastery, that all idea of redress was entirely done away.^a

Five other Bishops resided in succession at this City, all of whom stiled themselves Bishops of Coventry only, without any mention of Lichfield. An agreement was afterwards made, that both places should choose their Bishops alternately, and form one chapter; the precedence in point of title was given to Coventry; and the Prior was considered as next in station to the Bishop. Four of these Bishops lie buried in Coventry. The first Prior was one Laurence, of whom frequent mention occurs in the reigns of King Stephen and Henry II.^b

In 1141 (Robert Marmion who resided at Tamworth Castle, and was a violent and powerful adversary to the Earl of Chester), possessed himself of this Monastery, ejected the monks, fortified the church with its own buildings, and cut deep entrenchments in the adjoining fields, which were slightly covered over and concealed, that they might entrap any enemy, who should approach too near his residence.

But it appears, that upon the Earl of Chester's advancing to this place, Marmion drew out his forces to repel him, and imperfectly recollecting the exact line of the trenches, his horse fell with him to the ground; in this situation he was surprised by a private soldier, who severed his head from his body; a judgment, say the old writers, for his profanation of that sacred place.^b

A mutual fellowship and good understanding appears to have subsisted between these monks and those of Daventry, in Northamptonshire, about 1150; who bound each other to the strict and solemn observance of several religious obligations.^b

About this time, the monks of this establishment were permitted by Ranulph, Earl of Chester, to send two carts, twice every day, to his woods near Coventry, for the purpose of furnishing them with the necessary materials for the repairs of their buildings, and for fuel for their own consumption. He also confirmed to them the Chapel of St. Michael (St. Michael's Church), with its tythes, &c. to induce them to pray for the welfare of his own soul, and the souls of his family.^b

In 1183, an exchange of land took place between these monks and Hugh Kevelioke, the succeeding Earl of Chester; for liberty to effect which, Henry II. received of them 20 marks. About this time also, the

same Earl granted them a general charter of protection, confirmed to them their privileges and property, and forbad his tenants to interfere with their market.^b

Ranulph, surnamed Blundevill, succeeded Kevellioke, who ratified to the monks the confirmation made by his grandfather Ranulph, of the Chapel of St. Michael, &c. within his fee; with the whole of which property he solemnly invested them, in 1191, by his gold ring, which, with this charter, he offered upon the sacred altar. To the Chapel of St. Michael, he likewise gave a title of all his lands and possessions, upon penalty of a curse upon such of his heirs, as should neglect to observe and fulfil this solemn bequest. Moreover to the monks, in exchange for a moiety of wood which Ranulph, his grandfather, had granted them, he gave 280 acres of wood and wasteland, in the parishes of Exhall and Keresley, with liberty, if they should desire it, of converting the whole into tillage.^b

In the latter end of the reign of Henry II. Hugh Novant, a Norman, who had been educated at the University of Oxford, became Bishop, and received a grant of the Priory, similar to that of his predecessor Roger de Clinton; but during the life of this Monarch, he did not possess those privileges to which he thought himself justly entitled:—When his son Richard therefore ascended the throne, he purchased a confirmation of his father's grant, and obtained a sur-

render of the house by Moyses, the Prior, at Reading, in the presence of several Bishops, and many other creditable witnesses.^b

He purchased this Monastery of the King, for 300 marks, intending it as the residence of some secular priests. With this view, in 1190, he proceeded thither with an armed force, and when the monks displayed a show of resistance, after wounding some of them, and putting others to flight, he accomplished his design by open violence.—The charters and records of the monks were destroyed, and secular priests were established in their place.^a Bale reports that the Bishop himself was engaged in the conflict, and that he received from the monks a wound on the head, near the high altar, with the holy cross.

Tantæne animis cœlestibus iræ! VIRGIL.

Upon this, a complaint was made by the successful party to William, Bishop of Ely, and Chancellor of England (at that time not only the Pope's legate, but, in the absence of Richard I. who was on his journey to the Holy Land, then Governor of the realm also), that the monks had shed the blood of the Bishop, even before the altar itself. This complaint was received with attention, the ancient inhabitants were ordered to be expelled, and a set of secular canons to be placed in their room. The Bishop soon carried this order into execution; and to justify his conduct and promote his designs, he immediately dispatched

letters to Rome, signed by different Bishops, with intelligence that the monks of Coventry had deserted their rule, and were contaminated with secular pollutions: upon these circumstances, he founded a petition to the Pope, requesting that the disposal of that Monastery might devolve upon himself. The Pope, expecting the defence of the monks, made no immediate reply: but they being much impoverished by the oppression of their Bishop, were unable to send their defence to Rome; and thus the Bishop obtained his desire. The monks being thus driven into the wide world without a protection, had, at length, the satisfaction of seeing their persecutor struck with the deepest remorse: for in 1198, lying on his death-bed in the abbey of Betherlevin, in Normandy (on his return home from a long attendance at Rome), he was seized with the direst horrors at his conduct towards this holy fraternity, implored their forgiveness, and desired their intercession with the Almighty in his favour. He requested to be buried in the habit of his order, that he might receive the benefit of that holy protection in the other world. He disposed of all his gold, silver, plate, jewels, &c. to religious and charitable purposes, and finally consigned himself to purgatory, *ibi in diem judicii*, says the record, *cruciandus*.^a

At the period of this event, Thomas, a monk of Coventry, happened fortunately to be at Rome; he having been expelled with the rest, was studious to

obtain a restitution of this Monastery to its former state; he patiently awaited therefore every opportunity to accomplish his purpose, though he was frequently compelled to beg his bread through want. When intelligence arrived of the death of the Bishop, hoping at length to be heard, he presented his petition to Pope Innocent III. (who had lately succeeded to that sacred office) and was then sitting with his Cardinals in the Consistory. The Pope enraged at his importunity, ordered him instantly to withdraw; adding, that as other petitions to the same purpose, presented to his predecessors Clement and Celestine, had been already rejected, all expectations on his part were vain. The monk, with tears in his eyes, replied, "Holy Father! my petition is just and honest, and therefore my expectation is *not* vain; I expect your death, as I have done that of your predecessors, and one shall *succeed* you, who shall lend a favourable ear to my requests." "Hear you what this demon has spoken!" says the Pope in high wrath to the Cardinals; and then turning towards him he said, "Brother, by St. Peter, thou shalt not *expect* my death, for thy petition is granted:" and before he dined, he directed mandatory letters to Hubert, the Archbishop of Canterbury, enjoining him, that he should instantly go to the Church of Coventry, eject the clerks, and re-invest the monks in their former state. This order was punctually executed by the Archbishop. As Moyses, the former

prior, died during the banishment of the monks, one Joybet, a Norman, was appointed in his stead.—He, with the consent of the monks, appointed Geoffrey Muschamp, Archdeacon of Cliveland, to be the new Bishop; a man from whom they expected nothing but his good opinion.^a

This troublesome affair being thus ended, the monks in 1203, procured an alteration of the market, by payment of a fine to King John; and in the following year obtained letters of protection, with many other valuable privileges, for themselves, their tenants, and their possessions.^a

In the following reign of Henry III. many very heavy fines were exacted from them as exemptions from military service.^b

These payments fell thus heavily upon them, before they had been able to recover themselves from the difficulties under which they had laboured, through the oppression of the Bishop already-mentioned.—It should seem likewise, that in the time of Prior Roger, who died about the year 1248, a league of friendship was framed between the monks of Coventry, and the canons of Derley, in Derbyshire. The Coventry monks represented the misery of their situation in terms the most lamentable and affecting; and declared their various wants to be so urgent and pressing, that they should be, unless speedily succoured, under the dread of an immediate dispersion; they

petitioned the canons therefore, that some of the brethren might be received into their monastery; and thus a good understanding for some time subsisted between these two religious houses.^b

Fortune now made them ample amends for their former sorrows. Their privileges, as a seeming atonement for their short sufferings, increased beyond all measure. In the time of Henry III. they obtained the following very extraordinary privileges; that they and their tenants (with some few exceptions) should be free from all complaint or penalty, on account of murder, or robbery; that they should be discharged from all suit to the County, or hundred courts; all aid to the Sheriffs, all view of frankpledge, and all repairs of the King's castles or pools; and thus reign after reign conferred upon them fresh privileges and additional emoluments.^a

In the year 1410, the Clergy and Archdeaconry of Coventry, humbly represented to John Keterich, the Bishop of the Diocese, that this Monastery had been particularly celebrated for its miracles; they asserted, that many sick and infirm persons who had visited the tomb of St. Osburg, in the Priory Church, had been restored to health; they petitioned the Bishop therefore, that her birth-day might be revered with hymns and psalms, and all other offerings of devotion. The Bishop accordingly directed a Synod of the Clergy of this Archdeaconry, to be

convened in this Church, on the 13th of October, in the same year; which there determined, that the birth-day of this Saint should be honoured as a double festival throughout the whole Archdeaconry, annually for ever, in the same manner as the feast of the dedication of the Church itself.^b

In 1534, a survey was taken of its annual revenues, by order of Henry VIII. when it appeared that they amounted to 731*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* from which sum the fee-farme rent to the crown, reserved by Roger de Montalt, with all other pensions and annual payments, amounting to 249*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* being deducted, the clear remainder was 499*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.** per annum. From this amount the sum of 14*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* per annum, was also deducted for bread, beer, and two messes of meat daily for the support of two monks, and this allowance was made to the poor of St. John's Hospital, on its first foundation. The farther sum of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for money, bread, wine, and other necessaries, was annually distributed among poor people, on Maunday Thursday, at the washing of their feet. 12*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* were likewise allotted for the yearly maintenance of poor scholars in the Monastery.—Lastly 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* were appropriated to the observance of the anniversary of Leofric the founder, and his Countess Godiva. At the time of this survey, Henry, Marquis of Dorset, the High Steward, received an annual

* Here Dugdale is in an error.

pension of 4*l.*; and W. Gevyns, the Receiver General, received also an annuity of 10*l.* per annum.^b

The last Prior, Thomas Camswell, in 1538, was prevailed upon to surrender this house to the King's Commissioners, either through fear of instantaneous death, for opposing the will of that tyrant, Henry VIII. or, in consequence of a pension of 133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* given him for that purpose. A public instrument to this effect, is dated January 15th, of the same year, and contains the names of the monks, with the different pensions granted them during their lives.^b

Henry VIII. in 1541, not content with the expulsion of its inhabitants, and the seizure of its revenues; despising the various heavy curses and dreadful imprecations cited in the charters, and repeatedly pronounced in Parliament against those who should attempt to subvert this foundation, which far exceeded the church of Lichfield in magnificence and sumptuous ornaments, directed this noble pile to be levelled with the ground. In this deed, equally wanton and wicked, say the old writers, he resolutely persevered, notwithstanding the earnest prayers and intreaties of the Bishop Rowland Lee, who was, on other occasions, one of his confidential advisers, and one of his most servile tools.^a

This Bishop wrote in very importunate terms to Cromwell, saying, "He was moved, so to do, for-

asmuch as it was his principal see and head church; and that the City of Coventry sued for the same, and so earnestly entreated that the church might stand, and he keep his name, and the City have commodity and ease to their desire; or that by his Lordship's goodness it might be brought to a collegiate church, as Lichfield, and so his poor city have a perpetual comfort of the same."

The scite of this building was soon afterwards granted, with the messuages, gardens, mills, &c. to John Combes and Richard Stansfield, to hold the same in free burgage; from them it descended into the hands of John Hales, and, after flourishing under monastic government above 500 years, was left by him to his nephew Christopher, of the same name and family.^a

A large portion of the Monastery land, lying near this City, and in the County of the same, was granted to the mayor, &c. of Coventry, for the sum of 1378*l.* 10*s.* by the King's letters patent, to be held in capite, by the 20th part of a Knight's fee, and under an annual payment to the King of 7*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*^b

Whilst the Cathedral of Coventry was standing, this City possessed a matchless group of three churches all in one cœmetery. The Cathedral was the mother church; and the loss of that edifice is the more to be regretted, as it is supposed to have been built upon

the model of the Cathedral at Lichfield, and was equally beautiful.^a

This Cathedral stood in a place called Hill Close, on a gentle declivity from the North side of St. Michael's and Trinity church-yards. At the western entrance into this close, there was formerly a large and stately arch*, which led from the Oat-market, and which fell into ruins about a century ago.^b

Among the western ruins of this Cathedral, the butchers were accustomed to feed their animals for the supply of the public market.—In 1649, however, the City granted this part of the building to John Bryan, Vicar of Trinity Church, who built a house over against one of the steeples of the western front of the Cathedral, near, or over which, passed the cross aisles of the original Church. He also erected some dwelling houses on the foundations of the two steeples, which were on both sides the entrance into the Priory from the Butcher-row, cleared the ground of the ruins, and converted it into a garden. About the same period also, another part of the ruins was levelled, in the removal of which was discovered a great abundance of carved and gilt stones.—Of this, was first framed a bowling-alley, and afterwards a garden by Mr. Nathaniel Harryman. The East end

* The Dog public-house now stands on its scite.

of the Cathedral had been previously converted into gardens and orchards, by Mr. Burton and Mr. Brumwell; the eastern wall of whose garden stands at this hour on the foundation of the original chancel.—*MS.*

In 1776, the scite of this Cathedral Church was again consecrated as a burying-place for Trinity parish.

In April, 1781, a stone coffin was discovered in this burying-ground, near what was supposed to have been the entrance of the original church porch; an arched covering or lid, without any inscription, was placed upon the coffin, which, when opened, contained two bodies, one lying on the right arm of the other.

The chief habitation, in which the monks originally resided, is now likewise turned into garden ground, and in a great measure levelled.—As some door cases however, are still visible at the termination of the buildings which face the river Sherbourn, it is conjectured, that several apartments might even now be discovered buried under the earth.^b

The Bishops had a handsome Palace, which stood at the North-east corner of St. Michael's church-yard.—It was sold in 1647, to Nathaniel Lacey, Samuel Palmer, and Obadiah Chambers, for 105*l.*; with a reserved rent of one mark.^b

There were originally, two Chantries (one founded by Robert and William de Leicester, and the other by William Copston) belonging to this Priory; they were endowed with lands and yearly revenues, for the maintenance of priests, whose duty it was to sing mass daily for the souls of the founders, or such persons as they might think proper to appoint.^a

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH*.

THIS Church was founded in 1133, in the reign of Henry I. and given to the monks of Coventry, by Ranulph, Earl of Chester, in the reign of King Stephen, by the name of the Chapel of St. Michael. This act was confirmed by his son Hugh. Ranulph, the last Earl of that name, gave the tythe of his lands and rents in Coventry, for the repose of the souls of himself and his ancestors, and enjoined all his officers and dependents, upon pain of a heavy curse, to make a regular payment of them accordingly. In 1248, the Bishop laying claim to the advowson, it appears, that he and the Prior came to an agreement upon this subject. The Prior, to purchase the Bishop's interest, resigned the perpetual patronage of the churches of Ryton and Bubbenhall, and settled them upon the Cathedral of Lichfield, of which Church, they have from that time, been considered as prebends. By this agreement it was concluded, that after the deaths of the priests, who were then incumbents of the above chapels, the monks should provide secular priests and other fit ministers, to whom a competent maintenance should be allowed for their support. And to the vicarage of

* See Engraving for a beautiful North-eastern view of this Church.

St. Michael, was assigned the value of 24 marks per annum, out of the fruits of the Church, by the Bishop's Official and the Archdeacon; and two other persons on the part of the Prior, appointed for that purpose. It was further directed, that the Prior and Convent should pay four marks out of the said fruits, to the Archdeacon of Coventry for his procurations. And as it appeared, that the Cathedral of Lichfield had anciently received 30 marks annually out of the profits of this Church, it was by the same agreement further concluded, that the same sum should be annually paid at the Feasts of St. Michael and Easter, by even portions out of the rectory of Southam the patronage of which belonged to the same monks. This agreement is dated at Warwick, July 3, 1248. In 1259, this Church was appropriated to the monks; and in 1291, it was, with its Chapels, valued at 50 marks per annum, and the vicarage at eight marks and a half. In 1534, this vicarage was rated at 65*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* per annum, out of which 2*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* were paid annually to the Archdeacon of Coventry, for procurations and synodals. The Prior of Coventry moreover received an yearly pension of 5*l.* and the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*^b

This Church is at present in the patronage of the Crown.

The building of the steeple* commenced in 1373,

* Whilst the steeple was building, report states, that New-street was erected for the residence of the workmen; whose houses were constructed of a regular and uniform height.

and was finished in 1395, by William and Adam Botoner, who were several times mayors of this City. They expended 100*l.* per annum upon this magnificent structure, for more than 22 years; and as it appeared from an inscription in brass (*see page 17*) found in the Church, Ann and Mary Botoner, two sisters, finished the noble and majestic spire; the same persons, in 1434, built also the middle aisle, a lofty structure 50 feet high. The internal part of the Church consists of a body and two aisles, divided by rows of high and airy pillars and arches. Its whole length is 293 feet 9 inches, and the breadth 127 feet*.^b Here, we may literally observe in the language of the Muses—

———through the long drawn aisle and fretted vault,

The pealing anthem swells the note of praise.

Gray.

The tower and spire, 300 feet high, are justly admired as a most exquisite piece of, what is termed, Gothic architecture. The tower is 136 feet 3 inches high. The windows are well-proportioned; the buttresses fine; with a just quantity of embossed carved work and embroidery. The niches are particularly light and graceful, and furnished about the upper part, with 30 figures of the Roman Saints, of good statuary. Upon this tower stands an octagonal prism, 32 feet 6 inches high; this is supported by

* Dugdale supposes, from the appearance of the building, that this Church was erected in the reign of Henry VI.

8 springing arches from the pinnacles, so easily and curiously proportioned, that they may challenge any public edifice in Europe to produce similar elegance and symmetry. From within the battlements of the octagon issues a spire 130 feet 9 inches high, adorned with curious fluting, and embossed pilasterwise, the walls of which are 17 inches thick at the bottom, and so finely tapered, as to recline but $4\frac{1}{2}$ degrees from the perpendicular. The architect has displayed consummate art and symmetry in a geometric mean between sprightliness and grandeur; so that it would be difficult to make any alteration or addition, which would render the appearance of the building more graceful and beautiful.^b—Tradition reports, that Sir Christopher Wren always considered this structure as a master-piece of architecture.

The windows of this Church are ornamented with a variety of religious subjects, &c. painted in the glass.

This Church contained Merynton's, Shepey's, Haye's, Preston's, Crosse's, Pyseford's, the Taylor's and Sheerman's, Tate's, and Marler's Chuntries.^b

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

IN ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH.

[The Editor of these pages has made a short selection from the monumental inscriptions in the Churches of St. Michael and St. Trinity, in this City: from which he trusts his readers will be enabled to derive some knowledge of the taste and spirit of the times in which they were composed.]

*On a monument on the South wall of Mercers Chapel,
is this inscription in capital letters:—*

An elagicall Epitaph made upon the death of that mirror of women, Ann Newdigate, Lady Skeffington, wife to that true moaneing turtle Sir Richard Skeffington, Kt. & consecrated to her eternal memorie by the unfeigned lover of her vertues Willm. Bulstrode, Knight:

Vertue humble, beauty chaste, pious wit,
Husbands honour, womens glorye, sweetlye knit,
And all comprised fairelye in this one,
Sad fate hath here inshrined with this stone.
Vertue triumph, for thou hast woon the prize,
Beautie teach women to be chaste & wise;
Make her your patterne of a vertuous life,
Who lived & died a faire unspotted wife.
She was the mirror of her age and dayes,
And now the subject of transcendent prayse.
O! what a harmonye mans life would be,
Where women all but neare so good as she!

Her life was such as feared no sting of death,
 But dar'd him by so strong undoubting faith,
 As that he did but mildly steale unto her,
 And gently whisper'd as he meant to wooe her,
 And she as gently yeelded straight to goe,
 Before 'twas knowne if she were dead or no.
 Nor is she dead, her soul to Heaven stept,
 The rest stayes here till it awhile hath slept,
 And her fame here still lives & still shall wake,
 Till all good memorie shall earth forsake.
 Thrice blessed soule, wee'le not our grieffe belye,
 Wee wayle not thee, but our owne destinye.
 Yet in our loss of thee this is our glorye.
 That 'tis thy happines that makes us sorye.

Obiit Maii 21, ætatis suæ 29, anno Dni. 1637.

In the same Chapel, is a small monument fixed to the East wall, with the family arms, and this inscription in capital letters:—

Forbid not little ones to come unto Christ, for of such is ye Kingdom of Heaven.

Out of these stones shall God rayse a childe of William Staunton, of Staunton, in Com. Nott. Esq. and Anne his wife, who hear offer up as holy to ye Lord, ye first fruits of ye wombe, their eldest daughter Fraunces, who performed hir vow to forsake the world, anno ætatis 7, anno Salutis 1638. This, no monument of their griefe, but a memorial of that blessing, ye guift whearof they so loved, that they helde even ye losse deare.

Deare losse, who this remaynes alone,
 That we, bad Parents, give a stone,
 Since destiny, as it appeares,
 By method kills not, nor by years,
 And thou who tookest our shape & breath,
 Are made our auncient now in death,
 Be thou our pledge to Heaven, whylst we
 Hast to the grave to follow thee,

On the West wall, on a marble monument, is the family arms, with this inscription:—

Memento mori, & in æternum non peccabis.

Hic jacet

Johannes Brooke, Civis Coventriensis, illustri familia ortus, divini numinis cultor, castissimus Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ filius, obsequentissimus amicus, veterum nulli postponendus, ingens Civitatis suæ ornamentum; quem, ingemiscens bonis omnibus, ætatis flore mors inexorabilis abripuit, 4to. die Sextilis, anno Dom. 1679.

Jam satura es certe, mors invida, victima namque
Ingenium, pietas, hic tibi sacra jacet.

On a raised tomb close to the wall:—

Here lieth interred, in a hope of a blessed resurrection, the body of Mr. William Stretton, Sheriffe of this Citty, who departed this life, March the 17, anno Dom. 1659, and of his age 34. A man, in his naturall capacities very lovely; in his politicall very usefull; in his spirituals very eminent.

And by these, being dead, he yet speaketh.

Near the West side of the church, is the following inscription on a brass plate, on a flat stone, with the family arms:—

Here lyes the body of Capt. GERVASE SCROPE, of the family of the SCROPES, of Bolton, in the County of York, who departed this life the 26th day of Aug. Anno Dni. 1705, aged 66.

An EPITAPH written by himself in the agony and dolorous paines of the gout, and dyed soon after:

Here lyes an old toss'd TENNIS BALL,
Was racketted from spring to fall,

With so much heat, and so much hast,
 Time's arm for shame grew tyr'd at last.
 Four Kings in CAMPS he truly serv'd,
 And from his loyalty ne'er swerv'd.
 FATHER ruin'd, the son slighted,
 And from the CROWN ne'er requited.
 Loss of ESTATE, RELATIONS, BLOOD,
 Was too well known, but did no good.
 With long CAMPAIGNS & paines oth' GOUT,
 He cou'd no longer hold it out;
 Always a restless life he led,
 Never at quiet till quite dead.
 He marry'd in his latter dayes
 ONE who exceeds the comon praise,
 But wanting breath still to make known
 Her true AFECTION, and his OWN,
 Death kindly came, all wants supply'd,
 By giving REST, which life deny'd.

*In the North aisle of the Church. On a marble
 monument fixed to the North wall, with the family
 arms :—*

M. S.

Siste Viator,

Tuumq., dum nostrum legis, cogita Epitaphium,

ix annorum juvenis, diem obiens

Die 25 Novembris, Anno 1648,

Felicem resurrectionem & æternitatem hic expecto;

THOMAS PUREFOY,

GEORGH PUREFOY de Wadly, Arm. & ANNÆ F.

TH. GLOVER militis, filius natu quartus

Parce lachrymis;

Non immaturo fato cessit, qui maturus cœlo fuit;

Felicitatem defunctis invidet, qui mortem luget;

Sat diu vixi, si sat innocens,

Disce a me cum mortuus sim, quam certa mors;

Cum juvenis, quam incerta vita.

Paterna pietas hoc dōlori suo, nomini
Meo monumentum.

M. P.

1657.

Vale Viator, &

Ut mortuus vivas, vivus morere.

At the East end of the Drapers Chapel, is a raised tomb, with the family arms, and this inscription on the foreside of a black marble table:—

Unto the memorie of William Stanley, late Citizen and Maister of the worshypful Companie of Marchant Taylers, London, and one of the Maisters of St. Bartholomewes Hospitall, in Smithfeild, in the said Citie. Borne in this Citie of Coventry, & late Maister of the worshipfull Companie of Drapers here.

He gave sundrie Legacies to the good of the aforesaid Hospitall, and of this Citie, and departed this life the xviii of December, 1640. *Ætatis suæ LXXXI ii monethes.*

Joane his mournefull widowe hath erected this monument.

In this Chapel, on the front of a plain raised monument, are in basso relievo, Nethermyll and his wife, behind him five sons, and behind her five daughters, with their arms, and this inscription in old English characters, nearly obliterated:—

Hic jacet Julianus Nethermyll, prostratus
Quondam Major huius Civitatis, qui obiit
xi. die mensis Aprilis Anno Domini M. D.
xxxix. et Johana uxor eius, quorum
Animabus propitietur Deus, Amen.

Near to the above, is another raised monument, of black marble, the pillars of which are veined, and on which is the following inscription in capital letters:—

Here lyeth, expectinge a joyfull resurrection, the body of Sir Thomas Berkeley, Knight, onely sonne of the Right Honble. Henry Lord Berkeley, and of the Lady Katherine his wife, sister of Thomas Howard, late Duke of Norfolke; who by Elizabeth his wife, sole daughter, and heire of the Right Honorable George Lord Hunsdon Lord Chamberlayne to our late soveraigne Lady Queene Elizabeth, left issue George and Theophila, the onely children of 6 whome death had spared to attend their father's funeralls, and to bee the comfort of their mother; to whose perpetual memory she hath erected this her husband's monument.

In which alsoe lyeth the body of Henry the youngest of their children.

The said Sir Thomas Berkeley, deceased the xxiith day of November, 1611, ætatis suæ 57; and the said Henry his sonne, deceased the 4th day of March following.

On a flat stone in this Chapel, is a plate of brass, with the family arms, and this inscription in capital letters:—

Here lyeth Mr. Thomas Bond, Draper, some time Major of this Cittie, and founder of the Hospitall of Bablake, who gave divers lands and tenements for the maintainance of ten poore men so long as the world shall endure, and a woman to looke to them, with many other guifts, and dyed the XVIII day of March, in the yeare of our Lord God MDVI.

On a brass plate fixed to the North wall of the Chancel, is the portrait of a woman kneeling, with this inscription in capital letters:—

Mariæ Hinton, fæminæ lectissimæ,
 Uxori dilectæ, probæ, et piæ, maritus
 Amoris hoc sui monumentum posuit.
 Quæ pietatis eras, quæ religionis amore,
 Et matronali cunctis gravitate probata,
 Vivens, et moriens, constans exemplar amicis
 Vivendi in vita, moriendi in morte, relinquis,
 Sic tibi, sic vivit vitæ bona fama peractæ:
 Sic tibi, sic vitæ constat spes viva perennis.
 Oblit annum agens tricesimum,
 Aprilis 27, 1594.

On another, the portrait of a woman kneeling; this inscription is also in capital letters.

Her zealous care to serve her God,
 Her constant love to husband deare,
 Her harmless harte to everie one,
 Doth live although her corps lye here,
 God graunte us all while glass doth run,
 To live in Christ as she hath donne.

Ann Sewell, ye wife of William Sewell, of this Cytty, vintner, departed this life ye 20th of Decimber, 1609, of the age of 46 yeares; an humble follower of her Saviour Christ, and a worthy stirrer up of others to all holy vertues.

On the North side, is a beautifully executed white marble monument, with three marble busts, and the following inscriptions:—

Near this place, lye the remains
 Of RICHARD HOPKINS, Esq. and of MARY his beloved Wife,

To the pious memory of whom this monument is erected
 By the order of their only Son Edward Hopkins,
 With design to transmit to posterity the character of both,
 Justly allowed to them, in the age they lived in.

RICHARD, was a tender husband, an indulgent father, a
 sincere friend,

A devout Protestant, and a true loyal Patriot:
 Of the latter he gave proofs, in the several Parliaments
 In which for many years he represented this City.
 Mary no less possessed all the virtues of her sex; she was
 charitable, chaste, and pious; a dutiful wife, and
 an affectionate mother,

He departed this life, Feb. 1, 1707, in the 68th year of his age,
 She Oct. 13, 1711, in the 63d year of her age.

Lower down on the same monument :

Here lyes also,
 Their dutiful Son, the above-named
 Edward Hopkins, Esq.
 A person eminently distinguish'd
 For parts, politeness, and all other amiable qualitys;
 Who, after having discharged with honour,
 The Offices
 First, of one of the Commissioners of the Treasury,
 Then Secretary in Ireland,
 And Master of the Revels there;
 And having represented the City of Coventry,
 And the Borough of Eye,
 In Parliament of Great Britain,
 For the space of two-and-twenty-years;
 Pursuing the same true interest with his father,
 And imitating the virtues of both his parents,
 Dyed Jan. the 17, 1735-6 in the 62d year of his age.

— following inscription: —

*Next this place lye the remains
 Of RICHARD HOPKINS, Esq. and of MARY his beloved Wife.*

TRINITY CHURCH.

THIS Church and its spire would be considered as a most beautiful building, if it were not eclipsed by its vicinity to St. Michael's. In 1260, it belonged to the Priory. In 1291, it was valued at 20 marks, and the vicarage at two: but in 1534, the latter was rated at 33*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* per annum, out of which issued a pension of 100*s.* to the Prior, 16*s.* in procurations and synodals; and to the churchwardens for a quit-rent yearly, for the vicarage-house 20*s.*; so that the clear yearly value, deducting the reprises, amounted to 26*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*^b It is in the patronage of the King.

This Church contained Percy's, Holy Cross, Lodyngton's, Corpus Christi, Allesley's, and Cellet's Chantries. These, and all the other Chantries, were dissolved by an Act of Parliament in 1547.^b

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

IN TRINITY CHURCH.

On the South wall of the Choir, with the family arms :

EPITAPHIUM

Doctōris Hollandi a seipso confectum qui obiit 9 die Fe-
bruarii, 1666, et 85, ætatis suæ.

Nemo habet hic, nemon? hospes salveto, Philemon

Holland hâc recubat ritè repostus humo :

Si quæras, ratio quænam sit nominis, hæc est,

Totus-terra fui, terraq.-totus ero :

At redivivus morte tuâ servabor, Jësu,

Una fides votis hæc est via sola salutis,

Hâc spe fretus ego, culpâ, pœnâque solatus,

Jamq. renatus, et inde novo conspectus amictu,

Coetu in Sanctorum post redimitus ero.

Claudicat incessu senior mea Musa, videsne ?

Claudatur capulo mecum simul ipsa : valetō.

*On the same wall, upon a plate of brass, is the por-
trait of Whithed before a table, in his magisterial
robes, with his two wives at each end ; under the
one five children, and under the other four, with
this inscription :—*

Carmen in obitum viri clarissimi Johannis Whithed, quon-
dam Prætoris hujus Civitatis dignissimi.

Roma Numam jactat, decorat Lacedæmona priscam

Justa Therapnæus jura Lycurgus agens ;

Non minor est nobis, præciso stamine vitæ,

Qui jacet hic clausus lumine cassus humo.

Virtutis cursu constans athleta Jehovæ.

O quam longè aberat subdola Græca fides!

Mortuus ante diem, proh sævo funere raptus

Tempore Præturæ mortuus ante diem.

Tempore Præturæ tribus et plus partibus anni

Officio functus scandet in astra poli.

On the same wall is a small monument, with the family arms, and this inscription:—

Here lieth the body of Thomas Lane, gent. born in this Citie, Under Treasurer for divers years in the Middle Temple London, who, by the blessing of God, upon his faithfull services there, & other imployments, attayned to a considerable estate, which hee disposed by will to pious & charitable uses, viz. for fitting poor scholars for, & maintaining them in the Universities, and the releif of poor ministers widows. For the better execution of the said will, hee appointed Mr. James Nayler, then Major, Sir Richard Hopkins, Dr. John Bryan, Dr. Obadiah Grew, & Mr. Samuel Basnet, Overseers. And the Major, Steward, two Ministers & Lecturer of this Citie for ye time being, perpetual Overseers. Hee was buried ye 19th day of January, anno Dni. 1656. His surviving Executors Dr. Bryan, & Major Robert Beake (with the advice of the forenamed Overseers), in memory of so great an example of charity, have erected this monument*.

* The sum of 1100*l*. was left by this Gentleman to purchase lands; three parts of the interest to be bestowed in fitting poor scholars for the University, and their maintenance there for seven years and a half; no scholar's allowance to exceed 5*l*. and not to be given before he learns Greek—and after he goes to the University not to exceed 10*l*. per annum, nor less than 6*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*.—The other fourth part to be bestowed in relieving ministers widows; no widow to have less than 5*l*. nor more than 6*l*.

On a flat stone :—

Here resteth in hopes of a glorious resurrection, the body of Mr. Samuëll Franckland, Mr. of Arts, sometime of Katherine Hall, in Cambridge, forty years Head Schoolmaster in this Citty, who gave, with other charitable bequests 60*l.* for a chamber in the said Hall for the use of a Fellow, and also 600*l.* to the uses following, viz. 20*l.* the year for ever towards the maintenance of a fellowship in the said Hall, for a Scholar to be brought up in Coventry School, and 10*l.* a year for ever, to a Scholar to be brought up in Tamworth School, his native town. He was industrious, and very usefull in his place, charitable to the poore, upright and religious in his conversation; who departed this life the 22 July, 1691, aged 73.

On the West wall is a handsome white marble monument with this inscription:—

To the memory of
The Honourable
AMBROSIA, GEORGE, and ELIZABETH HEWITT,

The only issue
Of James Viscount Lifford,
(Late Lord Chancellor of Ireland)

By Ambrosia his consort.

This monument,
Beneath which, in God's appointed time,

Her own remains will be deposited,
Was erected by their disconsolate Mother,
In the year of our Lord, 1796.

THE GREY FRIARS.

THE Monastery belonging to the order of the Grey Friars, stood on the South side of the City of Coventry.—An order, which sprung from St. Francis, a native of Umbria, in Italy. This Saint, in his youth, is reported to have applied himself to the study of divinity, without regarding in the least the vain pleasures of this transitory world; his patrimony, which was very considerable, he entirely neglected; he cloathed himself in a cowl, and an hair shirt; went barefoot, and by frequent watchings and fastings, reduced himself almost literally to a shadow. He considered nothing in this world as his own; he even rejected food for his necessary support and subsistence, unless he received it as alms from the charitable and well-disposed. Whatever remained after a slight and slender refreshment, he bestowed upon the poor, and made no reserve, even for the wants of the following day. He usually passed the night in his cloaths upon a mat, with a stone for his pillow, and was reported to be a total stranger to the common feelings and appetites of man. When he first entered upon this course of life, he wore shoes and a leathern girdle, but literally

interpreting the commands of our blessed Saviour to his disciples, that they should neither possess two coats, nor a purse, he girt a single coat of plain wool around his body with a cord, and branded his flesh with various marks of our Saviour's passion and sufferings. His usual residence was Averne, at the foot of the Appennine mountains; and those whom he adopted as his associates and companions, he denominated *Minors*. The statutes of his order, with various strict rules and injunctions, were presented by himself to Pope Innocent III. by whom they were first confirmed about the year 1206; they were afterwards sanctioned and approved by Honorius III.; and within a very short period, they were again established by Gregory IX. who canonized their author as a Saint. No human institution ever increased with equal rapidity; the members of this fraternity soon spread themselves over the whole Christian world, and dwelt by tens in a Convent, says Matthew of Westminster.^b

Some Brethren of this religious order arrived in England, in 1224, two years before the death of their founder, St. Francis.—With what a spirit they were received by the monks of other descriptions, the following quotation will amply testify:—"Oh shame! oh worse than shame! (exclaimed these religious devotees) oh barbarous pestilence! the Minor Brethren are come into England." But the reason of this dislike and animosity, is thus rationally

explained by Matthew of Westminster—"These Minor Brethren (says he) were diligent instruments of the Pope; sometimes as his messengers, or ambassadors, and always actively promoting his interest; neither (adds he) were they slack in preaching, signing with the cross, and assisting the sick in making their wills: and this employment did not a little hinder the other monks, both in profit and power."^b

Sometime about the year 1234, this order was fixed in Coventry; where they had originally an Oratory, which was covered with shingles, from a wood at Kenilworth, by order of Henry III. to Ralph Fitz Nicholas, who at that time was Sheriff of the County of Warwick.^b

The Monastery and Church were built by contributions of the pious and charitable, on a spot of ground bestowed upon them by the last Randal Earl of Chester, out of his neighbouring manor of Cheylesmore.^b

This Church seems not to have been built before the time of Edward III. when the Black Prince (by charter, dated December 14, 1358) permitted the Friars to take such stone out of the quarry, in his park, at Cheylesmore, as they should have occasion to use for their buildings and walls.^b A very beautiful steeple, with a spire springing from an octagon, is all that now remains of this once elegant building.^a

Dugdale supposes the family of Hastings to have been great benefactors to this Institution: many of whom were interred here, in a chapel of their own name, and in the habit of the order.—This latter piece of superstition arose from the idea that the Evil Spirit would pay peculiar respect to the Brethren of this Fraternity, at the last day.^a

These poor Friars having escaped the general wreck of the inferior establishments, because they had nothing worthy the grasp of that rapacious tyrant, Henry VIII. had, at last, the honour of falling with the greater monasteries. The King, not content with their ruin, added to it the mortifying obligation of compelling them to make their own surrender, on the 5th of October, 1538, and to sign it with their names and common seal. The instrument is curious in itself, and may not be deemed unworthy the perusal of our readers:—^a

For as moche as wee the Warden and Freers of the House of Saynt Frances, in Coventre, commonly callyd the Grey-Freers, in Coventre, in the County of Warwick, doo profoundly consider, that the perfection of Christian livinge dothe nott consist in dume Ceremonies, werynge a grey coot, disgeasinge our selfe aftur straunge fassions, dokynge, noddynge, and beckyng, in gurdyng our selves wythe a gurdle fulle of knotts and other like Papisticall Ceremonies, wherein we hade ben mooste principally practised ond mislyd in tymes paste: but the very tru waye to plesse God, and to live a tru Christian mon wytheout all ypocrisie, and fayned diseimulation is sincerely declared unto us by our Mr. Christe, his Evangelists, and Aposteles; being myndyd

hereaftur to followe the same, conformynge our self unto the will and plesure of our Supreme hedde under Gode in erthe, the Kynges Majestie; and not to folowe henseforth the superstitius traditions of ony forinsecall potentate or peere: wythe mutuall assent and consent doo submitt our selves unto the mercy of owre seide Soverayng Lord. And wythe like mutuall assent and consent do surrendre and yelde up into the hondes of the same, all our seide House of Saynt Frances, in the Cite of Coventre, commonly callyd the Grey-Freers, in Coventre, wythe alle the londs, tenements, gardens, medows, waters, pondiards, fedings, pastures, comens, Rents, reversions; and alle other our interest, ryghtes, or titles, appertaining unto the same. Mooste humbly beseechinge his mooste noble Grace to dispose of us, and of the same, as beste shall stonde wythe his mooste gracious pleasure. And further, frely to graunte unto every on of us his license, under wretyng and Seealle, to chaunge our habitts into secular fashion; and to receve suche maner of livinges as other secular Priests commonly be preferred unto. And we all faithfully shall pray unto Almighty God, long to preserve his mooste noble Grace, wythe increse of moche felicite and honor. And in witnes of alle and singuler the premisses, wee the seide Warden and Covent of the Grey-Freers in Coventre, to thes presences, have putte our Covent Seealle the fivithe day of October, in the thertythe yere of the raynge of our mooste Soveraynge Lord King Henry the Eyghte.

Signed by John Stafford, Guardian, and ten other persons.

This House, or scite, was in 1542, granted by Henry VIII. to the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty of this City, and their successors for ever.^b

CORPUS CHRISTI PLAYS.

BEFORE the suppression of the Monasteries, these monks were celebrated for their annual exhibitions of the Mysteries, called *Corpus Christi Plays**: these they performed on Corpus Christi day, to the great emolument of their order before crowds of spectators, who resorted hither from all parts at that particular season.^a

They are reported to have frequented the most eminent and advantageous parts of the City, with high and portable theatres, drawn on wheeled carriages: on these stages their pageants were exhibited. The subject seems to have been announced in a sort of prologue, by a person called Vexillator, who probably carried a flag, on which was painted the subject of the day; and who, at the same time, appears to have explained to the audience the nature and history of the drama which was to be submitted to their inspection.^a—See Warton.

Sir William Dugdale says, that an ancient Manu-

* These plays must not be confounded with the old Coventry Play of Hock Tuesday, founded upon the massacre of the Danes. This day was also one of their ancient fairs.

script, containing the Plays performed by the Franciscans of this City, was to be seen in the Cottonian Library, sub effig. Vesp. D. 8. and cites the title to be *Ludus Coventriæ*; but in the printed catalogue of that library, p. 113, it is named thus:—A Collection of Plays in old English Metre; h. e. *Dramata sacra, in quibus exhibentur Historiæ Veteris & N. Testamenti, introductis quasi in scenam personis illic memoratis, quas secum invicem colloquentes pro ingenio fingit poeta. Videntur olim coram populo, sive ad instruendam, sive ad placendum, a fratribus mendicantibus repræsentata: viz.* “Sacred Representations, in which are exhibited the Histories of the Old and New Testament, the persons therein mentioned, being brought upon the stage, whom the Poet according to his fancy, introduces talking to each other. They seem to have been formerly represented before the people by the mendicant Friars, either for their instruction or entertainment.” It appears by the latter end of the prologue, that these plays or interludes were not only played at Coventry, but occasionally in other towns and places. And possibly this may be the same play which Stow tells us was played in the reign of King Henry IV. which lasted eight days. The book seems by the character and language to be at least 300 years old. It begins with a general Prologue, giving the arguments of forty pageants or gesticulations (which were as so many several acts or scenes), representing all the Histories of both Testaments, from the

Creation to the Chusing of St. Matthias to be an Apostle. The stories of the New Testament are more largely expressed, viz. The Annunciation, Nativity, Visitation; but more especially all matters relating to the Passion very particularly, the Resurrection, Ascension, the Choice of St. Mathias: after which is also represented the Assumption, and Last Judgment. All these things were related in a very homely stile, as we now think, infinitely below the dignity of the subject:—But it seems the taste of that age was not nice and delicate in these matters; the plain and incurious judgment of our ancestors, being prepared with favour, and taking every thing by the right and easiest handle.—See *Malone's Shakespeare*, and *Stevens's Monasticon*.

The *Miracle-Plays* or *Mysteries*, were totally destitute of invention and plan: they tamely represented stories, according to the letter of the Scripture, or the respective legend; and were most probably first acted with any degree of form, by the monks. In the year 1110, the *Miracle-Play* of *St. Catharine*, written by Geoffrey, a learned Norman (afterwards Abbot of St. Alban's), was acted, probably by his own scholars, in Dunstable Priory; perhaps the first spectacle of this kind exhibited in England. As the *Mysteries* or *Miracle-Plays* frequently required the introduction of allegorical characters, such as Charity, Sin, Death, Hope, Faith, or the like, and as the common poetry of the times, especially among the French,

began to deal much in allegory, at length plays were formed entirely consisting of such personifications.— These were called *Moralities*; and indicate dawnings of the dramatic art: they contain some rudiments of a plot and even attempt to delineate characters, and to paint manners. From hence the gradual transition to real historical personages was natural and obvious. It is supposed the first Morality did not appear earlier than in the reign of Edward IV. 1460. Although the Moralities were introduced, it must not be inferred, that the Mysteries ceased to be exhibited, as one was represented before Henry VII. at Winchester, in 1487, and even *occasionally* during the whole of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The prophet Elias, is said to have been the person who first instituted this order, at Mount Carmel, in Syria, where, leading a retired life, he was joined by many other persons, who were eager to follow the light of his example; being afterwards dispersed over the whole mountain in private cells; these brethren were at length placed in one convent, by Almeric, Bishop of Antioch; here they elected a Superior from among themselves, and first began the foundation of a Monastery on the site of the Chapel of the Virgin Mary, near to the fountain of Elias. This mode of life was first adopted in the time of Pope Alexander III. about the year 1150; but no

* See Hopton for a North-west view of the Whistlers

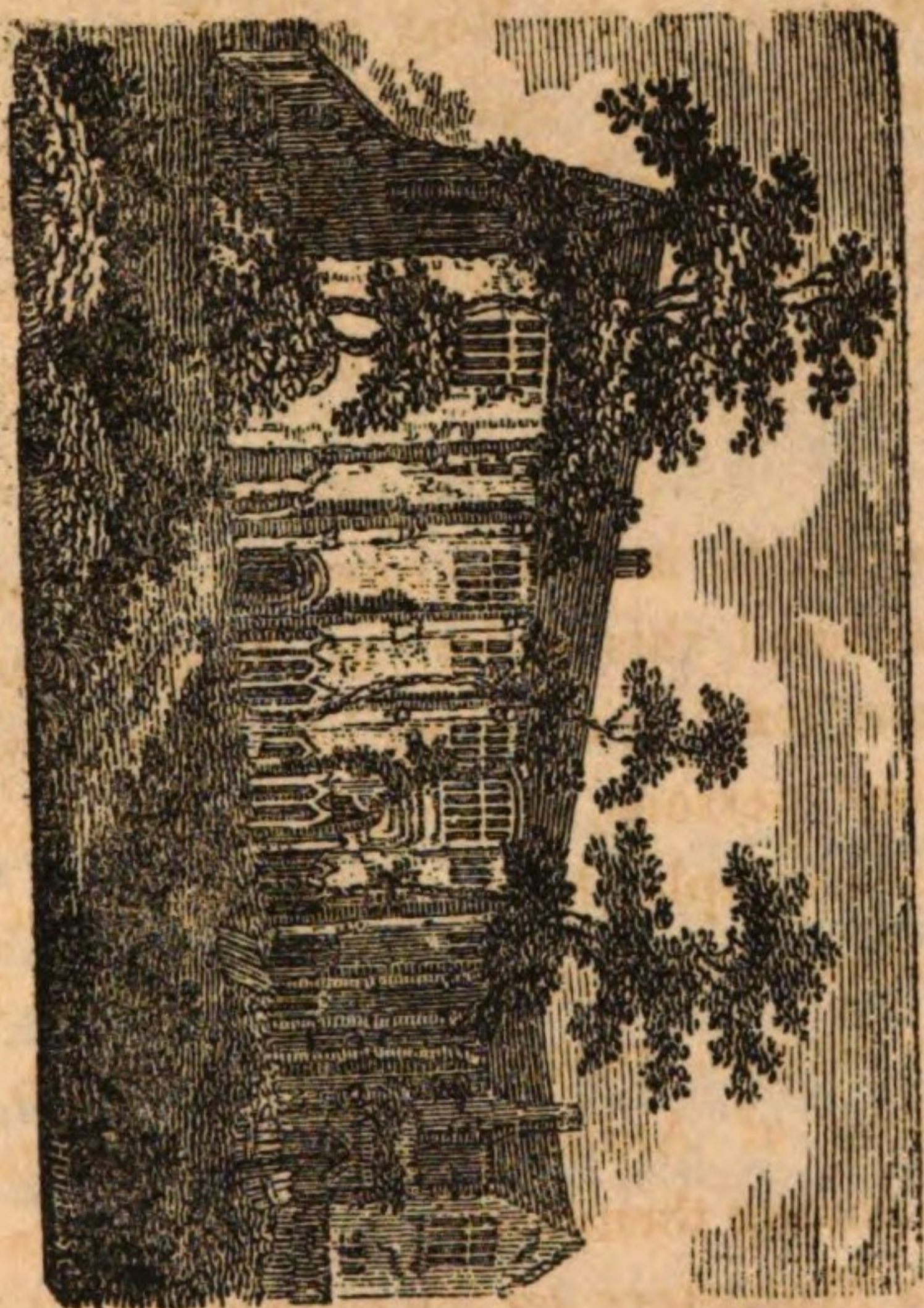
Monastery.

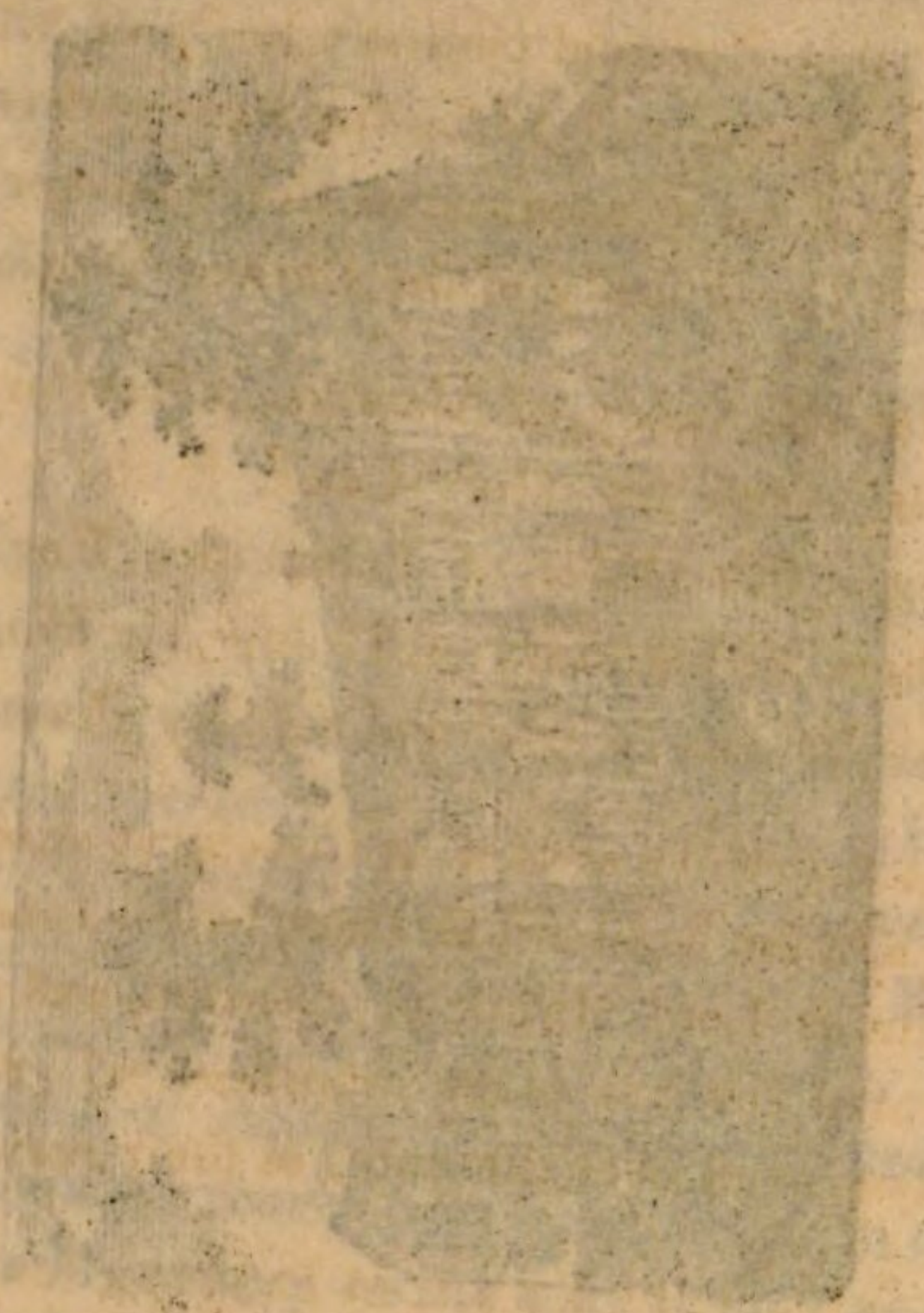
THE WHITE FRIARS*.

THE Monastery belonging to the *Carmelites*, or White Friars, stood at the East end of the City.— This was another order devoted to poverty, who subsisted upon charity derived both from the living and the dead.—Legacies were frequently bequeathed to them as supposed expiations for the sins of the donors.^a

The prophet Elias, is said to have been the person who first instituted this order, at Mount *Carmel*, in Syria, where, leading a retired life, he was joined by many other persons, who were eager to follow the light of his example; being afterwards dispersed over the whole mountain in private cells, these Brethren were at length, placed in one convent, by Almeric, Bishop of Antioch; here they elected a Superior from among themselves, and first began the foundation of a Monastery on the scite of the Chapel of the Virgin Mary, near to the fountain of Elias. This mode of life was first adopted in the time of Pope Alexander III. about the year 1170; but no

* See Engraving for a North-west view of the Whitefriars Monastery.





The Virgin Mary, now in the hands of the
This made of the was first collected in the time of
Pope Alexander III. about the year 1110; but was
a few centuries ago destroyed by the monks of
the monastery.

complete order of this description subsisted before the time of Innocent III. nearly 40 years after, when Albert, Bishop of Jerusalem, prescribed to them a form from St. Basil's rule, and enjoined them to wear a party-coloured mantle of white and red, such as was anciently used by the prophet Elias.—The colour of this habit was afterwards changed by Honorius III. who, instead of the party-colour, ordered that it should consist wholly of white: this colour he conceived to be the strongest emblem of purity; and he denominated the Convent of these Friars, "The Family of the Blessed Virgin."^b

Sir John de Vescy, of Alnwick, in Northumberland, returning from the Holy Land, in the year 1250, introduced this Order of Friars into England, and built them a Monastery at Holme, in Northumberland, at that time a wild and solitary situation.^b

This fraternity settled in Coventry, about the year 1342: a house was built for them by Sir John Poultney (four times Lord Mayor of London, and deservedly celebrated for his pious munificence), whose arms were engraved over the gates of their residence.^a

In 1383, Lord Basset, of Drayton, bequeathed to them a legacy of 300*l*.^b

In 1413, Henry V. granted a licence to William Botener, of Withybrook, enabling him to give to these Friars a piece of ground in Coventry, contain-

ing 141 feet in length, and 45 feet in breadth, for the purpose of enlarging their Monastery; in consideration of which donation they were to celebrate the anniversary of John Percy and Alice his wife.^b

In 1506, Sir Thomas Poultney, of Misterton, in Leicestershire, bequeathed his body to be buried in the Chancel of this Church; and ordered that at his funeral, 24 torches, each having his arms upon them, should be carried by 24 poor men, who should each wear a gown with a libberd's (leopard) head behind and before.^b

Upon the survey taken in 1534, it appeared, that the possessions in Coventry, belonging to these Friars, yielded 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum; and that the oblations in the Chapel of our Lady, amounted, one year with another, to 5*l.* 18*s.* per annum; making in the gross 9*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*—Out of this, 1*l.* was annually paid to Mereton's Chantry, in St. Michael's Church; and 2*s.* per annum rent to the heirs of Robert Norwood, for the land upon which the Church was built (viz on the tower of the City wall without New-gate); other money was also assigned to the annual repairs of the walls, and other purposes, amounting in all to 1*l.* 11*s.* The clear value of the whole property belonging to this House was thus reduced to 7*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* per annum.^b

In 1538, the poorer Friars were obliged to follow

the example of the greater Monasteries, and surrender their Houses to the King; when this Monastery among others was surrendered by an instrument dated October 30, and signed by 14 persons.—No pensions or allowance whatever, was made to any of the members.^b

Afterwards, this Monastery with all its possessions (excepting the annual payment to Mereton's Chantry) was by the King's Letters patent, dated August 27, 1544, granted to Sir Ralph Sadler, and his heirs, in burgage. Sir Ralph sold it to John Hales who made it his residence. By his will, dated December 17, 1572, he appointed it to be sold, and called it by the name of Hales's Place.^b

This John Hales was the person whom Leland denominates Hales with the Club-foot.—His lameness was occasioned by the following circumstance: As he was running carelessly along, his dagger fell from its sheath upon the ground; not perceiving the accident, he pressed forward upon the point of the weapon, which immediately pierced the sole of his foot. He died the 5th of January, 1572, and was buried in St. Peter's Church, Broad-street, where is a suitable epitaph inscribed to his memory.^b

At the death of John Hales, the Church was standing; as appears by the inquiry instituted by Henry

VIII.; but it did not continue long after that time, for, in the same reign, Mr. Edward Boughton, obtained the materials, and built with them a house at Causton, in the County of Warwick.^b

But notwithstanding the directions of the above will, the house was not sold; for John Hales, descended from Christopher Hales, the eldest brother of the above John, enjoyed it, and left it to his son Christopher, who died a bachelor about the year 1717; the brother of this Sir Christopher, Sir Edward procured an Act of Parliament after his brother's decease, for the sale of this property, to discharge Sir Christopher's debts;—John Duke of Montague, then became the purchaser of this property, who, in 1722, conveyed the premises to Samuel Hill, Esq. of Shenston Park, Staffordshire, who afterwards enjoyed the lands.^b The mansion subsequently came into the possession of the Rev. Mr. Smith, of Aspley, in Bedfordshire, who, in the year 1801, sold it to the Directors of the Poor of this City.

There are considerable remains of this building; part of the arched cloisters, the refectory, and dormitory, with vast vaulted rooms, which served as magazines for provisions, are still to be discovered. A very handsome gateway, with three niches in front, also is yet standing; and over an inner gate were engraved three arrows, the arms of the Hales's.^b

This fabric is now converted into an House of Industry, for the united parishes of St. Michael and the Holy Trinity. A new brick building has been lately erected in front, 93 feet in length, and 22 feet in breadth: it is three stories high, with sash windows, and a slated roof.

THE word Gild is derived from the Saxon, and signifies money. The historians of this description who associated together either for the promotion of charity, religion, or merchandise, usually contributed towards the general expense, money, goods, and sometimes other species of property. They had their annual feasts and their friendly meetings. Sir Henry Spelman observes, that this custom was anciently derived from the Franks, Lombards, &c. and is still continued by the inhabitants of Germany. When these institutions were first established in England, they were in existence many years before any formal licence was granted for that purpose; and the various Corporations of different towns and cities seemed to have formed their plans upon these patterns, in order to obtain the different privileges which they enjoy to this hour.

The first and most ancient of these Gilds in Coventry, is that which was founded by licence granted by Edward III. in 1340, and was to be called a *St. Michael's Gild*. This fraternity of brothers and sisters

MERCHANTS GILD.

THE word Gild is derived from the Saxon, and signifies money. The fraternities of this description who associated together either for the promotion of charity, religion, or merchandize, usually contributed towards the general expence, money, goods, and sometimes other species of property.—They had their annual feasts and their friendly meetings. Sir Henry Spelman observes, that this custom was antiently derived from the Franks, Longobards, &c. and is still continued by the inhabitants of Germany. When these institutions were first established in England, cannot now be precisely ascertained: it appears that they were in existence many years before any formal licence was granted for that purpose; and the various Corporations of different towns and cities seemed to have formed their plans upon these patterns, in order to obtain the different privileges which they enjoy to this hour.^b

The first and most ancient of these Gilds in Coventry, is that which was founded by licence granted by Edward III. in 1340, and was to be called a Merchants Gild. This fraternity of brothers and sisters

was empowered to elect a Warden, or Master, out of their own body ; they were enabled to found chantries, to bestow alms, to do other general works of piety, and to constitute ordinances concerning the same. In 1343 the same King granted a licence to John Holland and others, to found a Gild to the honour of St. John the Baptist, with the privilege of purchasing lands, to the value of 20*l.* per annum, within the liberties of the City, for the founding of a chantry of six priests to sing mass every day, in the Churches of St. Michael and the Holy Trinity, for the good estate of the said King Edward, his Queen Philippa, and their children, and for the good estate of the founders of the said Gild, and their souls after death.^b

Adjoining to the Chapel, there was anciently built a residence for the seclusion of an anchorite.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

ISABEL, the Queen Mother of Edward III. assigned the land on this scite, at that time called Bablake, containing 117 feet in length, and 40 feet in breadth, for the building of a Chapel, in honour of our Saviour and St. John the Baptist, in which masses were to be sung daily, and which was finished in five years, and dedicated on the 6th of May, 1350.^b

Upon the survey taken in 1534, it appears, that Mr. Robert Glasmond, at that time Warden of this College of Bablake (for by that name it was then called) had an annual stipend of 8*l.* and seven priests 4*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* each per annum. But in another survey of the lands belonging to the Trinity Gild, taken in 1545, the revenues were found to be 111*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*; out of which were paid annually, among other sums, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to the Warden of Bablake Chapel; to eight Priests 37*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; to the Master of a Grammar School, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; to two singing clerks 8*l.*; to two boys 2*l.*; to several poor men who had been brethren of the Merchants Gild, 10*l.*; and to Thomas Gregory, Clerk, Controuler of the same Gild 6*l.*^b

Adjoining to the Chapel, there was anciently built a residence for the seclusion of an anchorite.^b

The Church was repaired and pewed, on being made a rectory by Act of Parliament, in 1734, and settled on the Master of the Free School in this City. The patronage is vested in the Corporation. It is a very handsome building, with a neat, though not lofty tower, placed in the centre; the inside is in the form of a cross, being intersected by a short transept; the windows are high, and form a long range, with very narrow divisions.^a

Near this Church stood a venerable and magnificent Gate, called Spon-gate, which has of late years been taken down, in order to give admittance, says Pennant, to the enormous waggons, loaded beyond the height of arches, erected when war was our chief trade.

A Wake is held in Spon-street, on the Sunday and two following days, after St. John's day.—These institutions were anciently feasts on the dedication of Churches, but the custom soon degenerated, as appears by the following quotation from an old manuscript legend of St. John the Baptist, given by Dugdale:—

“ And ye shall understand and know how the *Evyns* were first found in old time. In the beginning of holi Chirche, it was so that the pepull cam to the Chirche with candellys brennyng, and wold *Wake* and coome with light toward night to the Chirche in their devociouns; and aftir they fell to lecherie, and songs, daunces, harping, piping, and also to glotony and sinne, and so toured the holinesse to cursyness; wherefore holy faders ordeined the pepull to leve that *Waking*, and to fast the *Evyn*. But hit is callyd *Vigilia*, that is *Waking*, in English, and it is callyd the *Evyn*, for at *Evyn* they were wont to come to Chirche.”

TRINITY GILD.

THIS Gild was founded in 1364, by Henry de Kele, and Thomas Orme, of Coventry, who obtained a licence to purchase lands within the liberties of Coventry, of 10 marks annual value, for the maintenance of two priests to sing mass daily in Trinity Church, for the welfare of Queen Philippa, her consort, and children, and for the souls of the members of the Gild and their benefactors. This Gild, in 1392, being united to that of St. John, was ordered afterwards to bear the name of the Gild of the Holy Trinity, our Lady, and St. John the Baptist; the fraternity of which, were empowered by licence to purchase lands for the maintenance of nine priests to sing mass daily in the Chapel of Bablake, for the welfare of the souls of the King and Queen, and his uncles, the Dukes of Aquitain, Lancaster, York, and Gloucester, with their children.^b

Soon afterwards, this Gild was endowed with considerable landed property, the gifts of different pious persons.^b

In 1399, a licence was granted by Henry IV. for

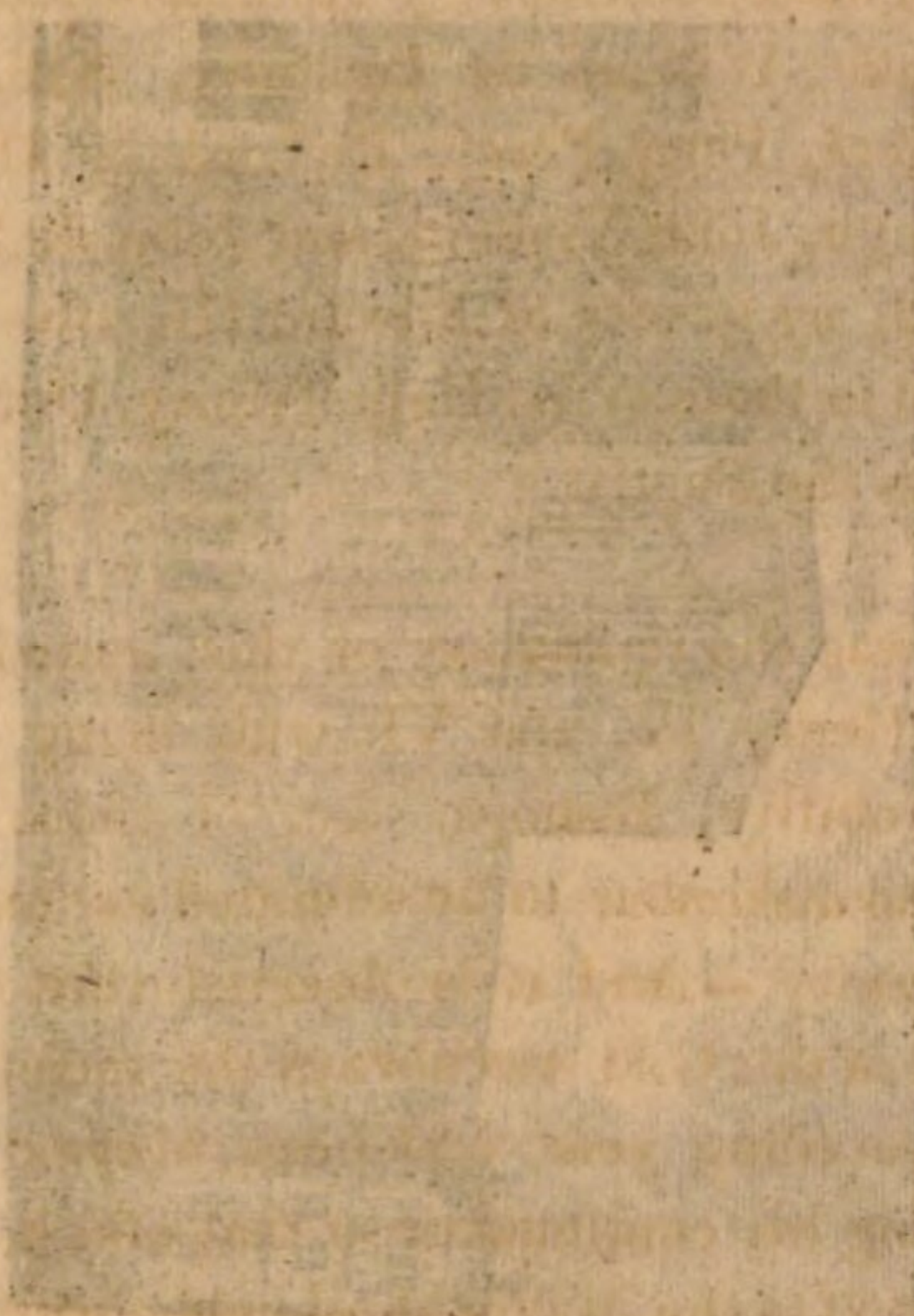
celebrating divine service here, provided, it might be done without injury to the mother church.^b

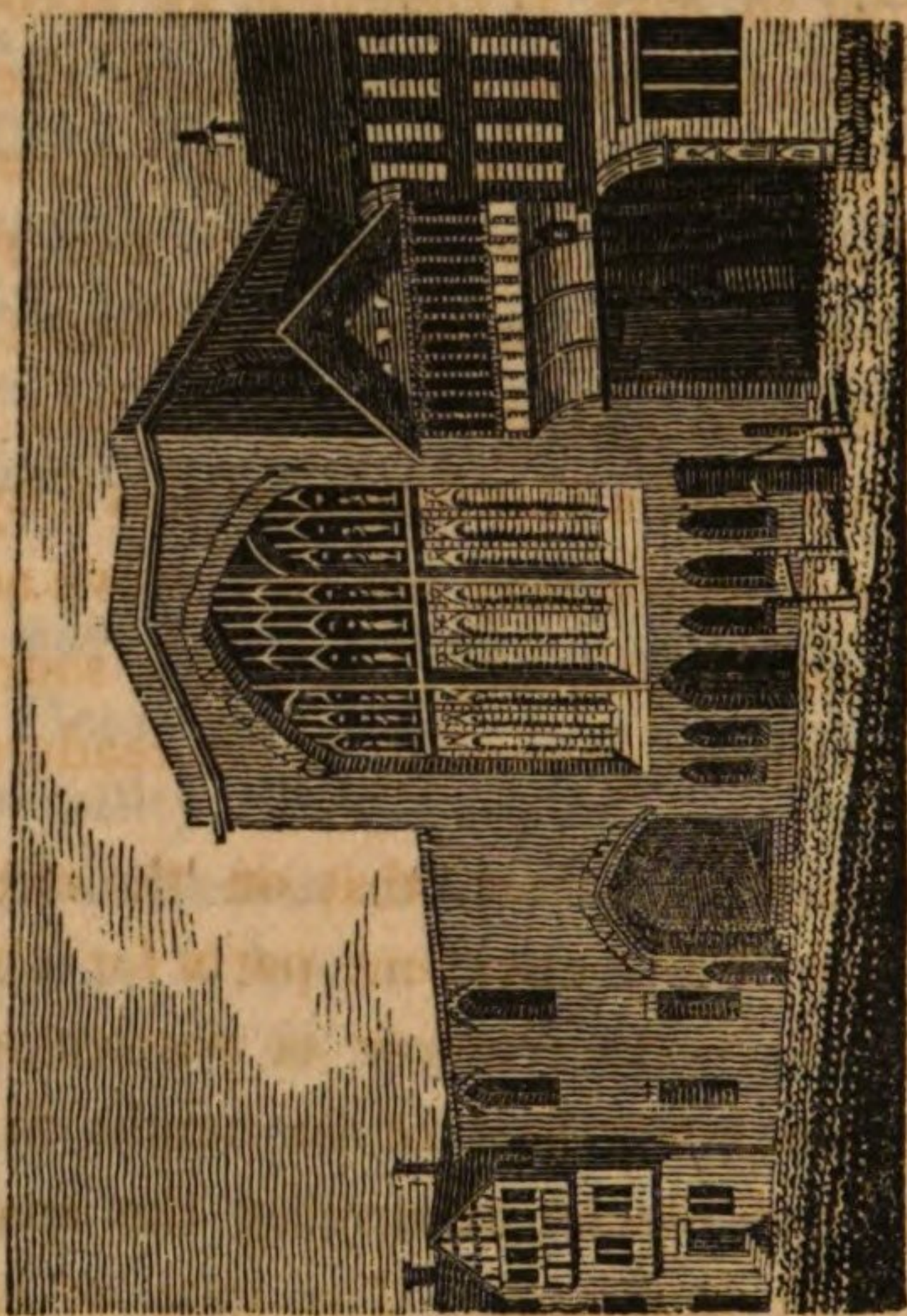
In 1553, a pension of 5*l.* was paid to John Bateman; and 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to Roger Stoneley, who were both Ministers of this Gild; Henry Westley, chaplain, received a pension of 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and Ambrose Maryott, and Rowland Gosnell, incumbents, similar salaries; the first, the sum of 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and the latter 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*^b

ST. KATHERINE'S GILD.

THIS Gild was established by Thomas de Ichynton, Nicholas Pake, William de Tutebury, William de Overton, *Clerk*, Peter Percy, Richard de Darkere, Simon Wareyn, John Vincent, and John de Pakyn-ton, in 1343, by licence of Edward III. after which it was united to those of the Holy Trinity, Our Lady, and St. John the Baptist.^b

So great was the reputation of this united Gild, that Kings Henry IV. and VI. with many of the principal Nobility, Bishops, &c. of those times, thought it no dishonour to be admitted as members of this fraternity.—And it is observed, that the annual Master of this Gild was always the same person who, the preceding year, had been Mayor of the City. During his continuance in that office, therefore, he sat next to the Mayor at all public meetings.^b This Society had also the power of appointing a public fair; and possessed a handsome building for their entertainments and meetings, called





ST. MARY'S HALL*;

Which stands a little South of St. Michael's Church, and was built in the beginning of the reign of Henry VI.^b

In order to give as compleat an account as possible of this venerable pile, so much the admiration of its numerous visitants and so interesting to the curious enquirer, the Compiler has selected extracts from letters inserted at different periods in the Gentleman's Magazine, by the late Mr. Gough, Mr. Carter, and a Gentleman of this City, under the signature S, which may not only prove acceptable to the professed antiquary, but also a source of entertainment to the generality of his readers:—

Mr. Carter observes, that on the exterior of this edifice are many excellent parts for observation.—The great North window is particularly striking, having the lower half of its height filled with exceeding rich niches, occupying the spaces between the several mullions. The gate of entrance, the windows of the building in continuation on the left, and the adjoining habitations on the right side of the Hall, are alike deserving of praise. In the porch, on the key stone of the arch, is a basso-relievo, re-

* See Engraving for a North view of this Hall.

presenting God on his heavenly throne receiving St. Mary, who is sitting with her hands conjoined, in the attitude of prayer. The ribs of the arch and groins claim also our regard.—On a projecting stone, whence the inward arch springs, is sculptured the Annunciation, now fast mouldering away; the figures of Mary and the Angel are still discernible, as also a flower-pot in the middle. — The corresponding stone in the opposite abutment, is wrought with unmeaning grotesque animals. We now advance into the court-yard, where on the right rises the East side of the Hall, and on the left are seen stairs ascending into an open gallery, which leads directly into the Hall.—These communications demand great attention for their singularity of construction. Before we enter into the Hall, let us view the kitchen, admittance to which is by a door under the said gallery. This design is truly consistent with the grandeur of the pile, where we find on the North side lofty arches supported by octangular columns. At each extremity of a large arch, over the coppers, is an angel holding a shield, containing a mark or monogram, probably the builder's; the letters I. B. are quite distinct. The East and South sides present four chimnies with communicating arches between them; and the four windows over these chimnies are in the finest stile of architecture, which indeed is displayed in the whole work of this appendage to ancient hospitality.

Here we enter into the basement story, or cellar of the Hall, where door-ways, windows, columns, groins, and sculptures, prove the exalted ideas and unabating fervour which characterised the architects of former times.

The great Hall is a fine old room 21 yards long and 10 broad; in the North end of which is a noble semicircular window, divided into nine parts, elegantly painted with figures of several of our monarchs, with coats of arms and ornaments. The arms now left are those of Kings Henry VI. Edward III. the Emperor Constantine, King Etheldred, the Earl of Cornwall, the Duke of Normandy, the Kingdom of the East Angles, the Kings of Man, the City of London, King Alfred, the Duke of Aquitaine, the City of York, and the Earl of Chester. Underneath are the figures of the Kings, which are, like the arms, very much mutilated, viz. William the Conqueror, King Richard, Henry V. Henry IV. the Emperor Constantine, King Arthur, Henry III. and Henry VI.

Three of the West windows were repaired about 25 years since, and reglazed with plain glass; they formerly contained the figures of Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, with a battle-ax in his hand, and one of the John Mowbrays, Duke of Norfolk. The Oriel window, on the same side (near which is a door way into a room where the food unconsumed at public

entertainments is deposited) contained formerly in each pane, various sorts of birds, flying, pluming themselves, or picking insects, herbs, and grain;—in the middle row, in rondeaux, is painted a man mowing, with the letters F. P.; another ploughing; and a third felling a tree;—the two latter with a part of the birds are now gone. G.

The superb windows on the East side contain much historic treasure, though greatly damaged; and the clusters of columns on their piers are, as well as on the West side, supported by religious and royal bustos. C.

In the two upper compartments of the first East window, are two bishops, of whom Dugdale (who attended only to the portraits of the Earls of Warwick) gives no account; they represent Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury (1396), and Roger Walden, Bishop of London, (1404), the inscriptions beneath are quite perfect, and the figures nearly so; the faces, mitres, crosiers, and Gothic canopy, are delicate, and worthy attention. On the whole, they are the most perfect figures remaining. S.

In the lower compartments of this window, are the portraits of William Beauchamp, fourth son of Thomas Beauchamp, third Earl of Warwick of that name, who died 1411, and his wife Johanna, who was one of the daughters and co-heiress of Richard Fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel, and died 1435. Underneath

are their arms, with inscriptions somewhat mutilated. S.

In the upper compartment of the second window, is a figure in a red cowl and yellow belt, representing Richard Beauchamp, fifth Earl of Warwick of that name, and nephew to William before-mentioned, who died 1439, with his arms and an inscription. The opposite compartment, contains the remains of a figure originally representing Isabella his second wife, daughter and heiress of Thomas De Spenser, Duke of Gloucester; the upper part of the body is entirely gone, a bearded face is substituted, and the rest is mere patch-work. The scroll is almost destroyed, the letters *bella* only remaining; the other letters of her name are removed to another part. S.

Of the two figures below these, the first represents William Whychirch, who was Mayor of Coventry, in 1400, he is pictured with a forked beard, in a red cap and gown, the usual habiliments of the Mayors. On a shield below him is a merchant's mark encircled with a scroll bearing his name, but completely inverted. S.

Opposite, is a figure in a similar habit over a blue dress; fastened with a girdle, in which one hand is placed; the face is good, and the venerable long beard exquisitely finished. Below is a merchant's mark on a shield. The scroll remains, but the letters

have vanished. The dress however clearly points out that he had been a Mayor, and most probably of this City. S.

In the first upper compartment of the third window, is a figure of John Burghill, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, in 1399, with a shield under him, and the scroll inverted. Opposite is the figure of Richard Scrope, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, 1396, afterwards translated to York; this Bishop holds in his left hand a closed book; under him a shield with arms. S.

In the lower compartment of this window, is a figure with a red cap and gown; under it a merchant's mark in a shield, between the letters R. S.; and round it, on a scroll, *Robertus Schypley*, who was Mayor of Coventry, in 1402, and again in 1415. The inscription is quite perfect. In the opposite compartment was a figure in a similar dress, but it is now very much mutilated, and the shield with the surrounding inscription is totally gone. These, with the two similar figures in the second window before described, were evidently the effigies of four Mayors of Coventry, probably contributors and assistants in the erecting St. Mary's Hall, and certainly Members of the Gild. S.

Over the heads of these lower figures are inscriptions in semicircles; they are not easily read, owing

to the numerous contractions, but they appear uninteresting. S.

All those great men are dressed with the magnificence and luxury of the East in long robes, lined with ermine, and with large and singular hoods.—These were the garments of peace, when they passed the festive day in honour of their fraternity.^a

Below the North window, and filling the space from the seat of continuation to its sill, is that intrinsic supporter of Coventry's highest honours, and commemorator of a splendid event, when royalty and its attendant pomp honoured this Hall with their presence.—It is then that exquisite tapestry, the dimensions of which are 30 feet in length, and 10 feet in height, and divided into six compartments, three in the first tier, and three in the upper tier. In the first compartment (beginning from the left hand) we behold Henry VI. with several of the principal nobility of his court. Henry is on his knees in an extacy of devotion; before him is a covered table, whereon lie his crown and a missal. Behind Henry is Cardinal Beaufort in the same attitude. The rest of the personages are standing, among whom we may readily point out the good Duke Humphrey, and the other names that aggrandised this monarch's high-born train. The dresses principally shew a vestment next the body depending below the knees, and a robe with large sleeves worn over it. The

shoes are long-quartered. The caps are small and flat with their brims notched. The King and the figure near him (Duke Humphrey) have in their caps large jewels, and their necks are decorated with gold chains. The cut of the hair of the several portraits is much varied; and the beards of Duke Humphrey and another principal character are left to flow to an unusual length. Each figure has his neck bare; and just above the collar of the under-garment something like linen appears. From Henry's crown are diverging those bows with globe and cross, which were first introduced in his reign. Taking in our eyes the whole group, we find the major part of them deeply impressed with the religious objects in their view; and it may seem rather remarkable, that a very small part of their number appear without caps on their heads; which, however, demonstrates that, in the religious ceremonies of Henry's day, such coverings were circumstances unheeded and indifferent. In the back ground are rich hangings, part of which being drawn aside near Henry, present a distant view of the country. In the compartment above are several of the Apostles: as St. John the Baptist, St. Simon with a saw, St. Andrew with a cross, St. Bartholomew with a dagger, St. Peter with keys, St. Paul with a long sword, St. Thomas with a lance, and St. John the Evangelist with a lamb, flag, and book.—Here are likewise two Christian knights, one bearing a banner of the cross,

and the other a sword and an anvil, emblematic of courage and fortitude. In the back ground are hangings, and a view of the country also. C.

In the second compartment, in the first tier, is St. Mary in glory, surrounded by angels, with the moon under her feet, which is supported by an angel also. The attitude of this divine representation is chaste and elegant; and the robes are such as the most beatific mind would devise, so as to combine worldly garb with heavenly array. On each side of St. Mary are the twelve Apostles in devotional positions. The back ground shews hills and vales, &c. In the compartment above, the scene is continued; where we see the heavens opened, and filled with angels arranged round the eternal throne. Four of them bear the instruments of the passion; and we have here to lament that the subject in the centre has been cut out, and a poor effort of the loom sewed in its place, the figure of Justice. We are yet able to discern the steps and sides of the throne, with the characters IHS on the top of the work. Beyond a doubt, the destroyed part of the tapestry gave the representation of the Creator, bearing on the cross our Lord Jesus, and the dove between them, which was no more than the usual display of the sign of the Trinity, still common in our ancient sculptures and paintings. C.

Third compartment, on the first tier. Here let us.

pause awhile, and gaze on the lovely semblances of the 15th century. Religion beams in the beauteous circle; bended knees, hands raised in prayer, adoring eyes, are here the pious charms to draw the soul to follow virtue in a train like this. Here we see Margaret*, Henry's consort, who has before her a covered table with a missal thereon. Her crown is on her head; and we perceive in her countenance all those attractions which so adorn the female mind, as affability, modesty, tenderness, and meekness.—Has the artist in this portrait belied his feelings? or is it to hireling historians we owe those unmanly epithets, when they call her proud, unchaste, cruel, and tyrannical? The lady near the Queen is called by the name of the Duchess of Buckingham. The rest of this assemblage are wholly unknown; and we must, as in the former instance with regard to the male characters (excepting Henry and the Cardinal), use conjecture to assign names to satisfy our historic curiosity. The dresses of these ladies are a robe, tight on the body, with wide flowing sleeves, their necks bare, and on those of the Queen, the Duchess, and three others, are gold chains. The covering to their heads is peculiarly graceful; the Queen's more so from the rich addition of her crown. Among the number are two nuns in the full habit of their order. In the back ground are hangings; and by the side of the Queen is a distant view of the country with a

* Coventry was stiled the secret harbour of that Queen.

variety of buildings. The tier above shews many female Saints; who, we may conclude, with the corresponding male Saints on the other side of the tapestry, were the heavenly patrons of the principal persons in the compartments below them. The draperies that adorn these sainted females are in a taste the most refined that can be imagined, so as to distinguish such a celestial company. We may particularly note among them St. Catharine, St. Barbara, St. Dorothea, St. Mary Magdalen, St. Margaret, St. Agnes, St. Anne, St. Apollonia, and a Saint in the vestments of an abbess. The back-ground to this subject is likewise filled with hangings. C.

In the year 1580, the inside of this Hall was new painted and beautified; and along the East side are the following Latin and English inscriptions in different pannels:—

Princeps ille Nîger (niveis cui vertice pennis
Crista minax, victi Regis cæsique Bohemi
Exuviis) heros Edovardus, magnus in armis,
Hic sedem posuit; sic dicta est Principis Aula;
Hoc authore, fuit libertas civibus aucta,
Muneribusq. ornata suis res publica crevit;
Hinc depicta, vides, passim sua penna per urbem,
Testatur magni monumentum et pignus amoris.

After this inscription are the Prince of Wales's Arms.

Labentes fatis (quid enim perdurat in ævum)
Fortunas urbis tandem miseratus, agrorum
Extendit fines Northumbrius ille Johannes;

pause awhile, and gaze on the lovely semblances of the 15th century. Religion beams in the beauteous circle; bended knees, hands raised in prayer, adoring eyes, are here the pious charms to draw the soul to follow virtue in a train like this. Here we see Margaret*, Henry's consort, who has before her a covered table with a missal thereon. Her crown is on her head; and we perceive in her countenance all those attractions which so adorn the female mind, as affability, modesty, tenderness, and meekness.—Has the artist in this portrait belied his feelings? or is it to hireling historians we owe those unmanly epithets, when they call her proud, unchaste, cruel, and tyrannical? The lady near the Queen is called by the name of the Duchess of Buckingham. The rest of this assemblage are wholly unknown; and we must, as in the former instance with regard to the male characters (excepting Henry and the Cardinal), use conjecture to assign names to satisfy our historic curiosity. The dresses of these ladies are a robe, tight on the body, with wide flowing sleeves, their necks bare, and on those of the Queen, the Duchess, and three others, are gold chains. The covering to their heads is peculiarly graceful; the Queen's more so from the rich addition of her crown. Among the number are two nuns in the full habit of their order. In the back ground are hangings; and by the side of the Queen is a distant view of the country with a

* Coventry was stiled the secret harbour of that Queen.

variety of ~~hairs~~ ~~the~~ ~~female~~ ~~Saints~~ ~~and~~ ~~corresponding~~ ~~tapestry~~ ~~were~~ ~~persons~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~draperies~~ ~~that~~ ~~taste~~ ~~the~~ ~~distinguish~~ ~~such~~ ~~particularly~~ ~~note~~ ~~among~~ ~~Barbara~~ ~~St. Dorothy~~ ~~St. Agnes~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~subject~~

In the year 1811, the following
 printed and written
 the following
 seven parts

First part
 Second part
 Third part
 Fourth part
 Fifth part
 Sixth part
 Seventh part

After this
 The first part
 The second part
 The third part

And the
 am,
 lovardos
 onos;
 ebus,
 ris.
 The
 ue
 es.

Old English

le Leoffwine†

it would not bee,
 ordes do date,
 o Citty's state;
 our hither cast,
 ay to last;
 all we have,
 mercie save.

Castle.

Blacke Prynce

n, in claime of

pointing distinct

Cumq. fuit bello dux invictissimus, armis
In mediis coluit pacis, vir providus, artes,
Exemploq. suum vocat ad pia facta Robertum*.

Arms of Northumberland.

Non tantum meruit Leofricus Cestrius olim,
Nec conjux Godina, pii dux fœmina facti.
Godina, ah! turpi quæ lege coacta mariti
Fertur equo, diffusa comas, nudata per urbem
Asseruitque suos: culpent utcunq. minores,
Vicit amor patriæ, libertatisq. cupido.

Between this and the following inscription, is a bear and ragged staff, the crest of Robert Dudley Earl of Leicester, and of the Earl of Warwick; this crest was peculiar to these Earls in the time of the Britons; the staff was added, according to tradition, when Morvidus slew a giant armed with a young tree.

Quantum hodie patrem referens Leicestrius Heros,
Retro sublapsam qui nostram restituit rem;
Sustinet in pejus ruituram urbisq. salutem;
I modo, quo virtus te fert: sic itur ad astra,
Et quibus insistis fœlix procede paternis
Auspiciis, maneatq. tuos hæc cura nepotes.

* This Duke of Northumberland was beheaded in 1553, for setting up Queen Jane; and Robert, his son, was the famous Earl of Leicester. The Duke was son to Edward Dudley, beheaded in the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. he was created Earl of Warwick in the beginning of Edward VI. reign, and Duke of Northumberland in the fifth year of the same King. What lands they gave to this City, are expressed on a brass plate, at the bottom of the Hall.

On the West side:—

Auxiliis olim stetit alma Coventria regum,
 Dum Fortuna fuit, magnos colit hinc Edovardos
 Henricosq.* suos, urbs non ingrata patronos;
 Jamq. adeo afflictis crescit spes altera rebus,
 Elisabetha tuis princeps mitissima sceptris.
 Lætior illuxit nullo pax rege Britannis;
 Ergo age diva, tuis sis fœlix civibus usque
 Exuperans patrias et avitas æmula laudes.

King's Arms.

On the same side are three others, in Old English characters:—

Since time that first this auncient towne Earle Leoffwine†
 feoffed free,
 At Godina's suite and merite straunge, or els it would not bee,
 In Prince's grace by long descent as old recordes do date,
 It stood maintein'd, until at length it grew to Cittie's state;
 Quene Isabell, sole heire of Fraunce, great favour hither cast,
 And did procure large fraunchises by charter ay to last;
 We ow, therfore, in loialtie, our selves and all we have,
 To Elizabeth, our Lady Liege, whom God in mercie save.

City Arms—the Elephant and Castle.

Edward, the floure of chevalre, whilom the Blacke Prynce
 hyght,
 Who prisoner tooke the French Kyng John, in claime of
 Grandame's ryght;

* Henry VI. made Coventry a County, appointing distinct
 Sheriffs.

† Leofric.

And slew the Kyng of Beame* in fielde, wherby the ostrych
penn

He wan and ware on crest here first; which poesie bare
Ich Dein†.

Amid thes martial feates of armes, wherin he had no peere,
His bountie eke to shew this seate he chose and lov'd ful
deere;

The former state hee gat confirm'd, and freedome did en-
crease;

A President of Knyghthood rare, as well for warre as peace.

Prince of Wales's Plume of Feathers.

When flourishing state 'gan once to fade and common wealth
decay,

No wonder that in Cities great (for what endureth ay?)
John, late Duke of Northumberland, a Prince of high degree,
Did graunt faire landes for commons weale, as here in brasse
yow see;

And Leicestre, mid thos great affaires wherto high place
doth call,

His Father's worthy steppes hath trac'd, to prop that els
might fall.

On forth in Prince and Countrie's cause hold on this course
your dayes;

Such deedes do noble bloud commend, such win immortal
praise.

* Bohemia.

† The three feathers, the arms of the Prince of Wales, were first assumed by Edward, called the Black Prince, after the Battle of Cressy, in 1346.—Historians assert, that they were the three ostrich feathers which the King of Bohemia bore that day in his coronet; and that he was slain by Edward, who seizing on the crest, bore, from that time, both the feathers and the motto *Ich Dien*.—Or our brave Prince, probably, might assume this royal cognizance in memory of the glorious day, and add to it his own motto, *Ich Dien*, the old English for *I serve*; allusive to the Scriptural verse, 'The heir, while he is a child, differeth not from a servant.'

At the lower end of this Hall is the following inscription engraved in old English characters, on a plate of brass:—

MEMORAND. yt ye ryght highe & myghtie Prynce John late Duke of Northumb'lande deceassed, for ye right hon'able zeale w'ch he bare to ye Citie of Cove'tr' & to ye pore i'habitaunce of ye same, by his dede inde'ted, dated ye xii of August, in ye thirde yere of ye raygne of o'r late Soverigne Lord Kynge Edwarde ye Sixte, dymised, graunted, & to ferme lette unto ye Maior, Bayliffes, & Comynaltye of ye said Cytie, all his Manour of Chellesmore with ye Parke, & all ryghte me'bers and appurten'nce of ye same for ye

..... x x*
terme of i i i i & xix yeres for ye uses, intents, & purposes folowing, that is, That they & theyr successours for ye relief of ye pore of ye said Cytie should yerely take

..... x x
to pasture in ye said Park ye nombr of i i i i kyen or heyefors & xxtie geldynge, of soche pore inhabitaunce of ye said Cytie & subburbe, as shall not haue ells where nighe ye said Citie sufficiente pasture, painge wekely for every cow or heifor 1d. & for every geldynge 11d.

MEMORAND. also, yt ye right honorable Robert Earle of Leycestr, sone to ye said late Duke of Northumberland, for ye like right honorable & earnest zeale yt he had to ye advauncement & setting forward of ye said godly intent of his said Father, uppon his greate sute & request made to ye Queenes Maiestie our Soverign Lady Queen Elizabeth, hath obtayned her Maiesties letters patente, under her greate seale of Engelande, whereby she graunted to the sayd Maior, Baylyffes, & Comynaltie, & their successours for ever, the sayde Manor & Parke of Chellesmore, & other the premysses in fee ferme, for the ententes & uses abovesayde.

MEMORAND. also, yt the said Maior, Baylyffes, and Comynalltye, have coven'nted and graunted to & with ye saide

Earle, his Executores & Admynstratours, truly to observe & p'forme ye intentes, uses, and purposes before mencioned ; & also yt ye said p'misses nor any parte therof shall not be ouercharged, but allwayes kepte in suche plyght as ye saide no'ber of cattell maye be at all tymes for ye sayde moneye, well & sufficiently kept, according to ye season of ye yeare for euer. As by the said indenture, whereof the one part remaineth with the sayde Mayor, Baylyffes, & Comynalltye, & the other parte withe the saide Earle, bearinge date the fourth daye of Aprell, in the tenth yere of the saide Queene Elizabeth appeareth, w'ch was in ye yere of grace 1568.

The next object claiming our attention is a chair of state under this monument; it is full of ornaments and tracery, among which is St. Mary with the infant Jesus; on one side, at the top, are carved the arms of Coventry; opposite, are two lions rampant, supporting a crown or coronet, but so much injured it is difficult to determine which. It has evidently been a double chair; the parts where the other half fitted in being very visible. It might perhaps, have been made for the reception of Henry VI. and his Queen, when they visited the Gild; or probably it was brought from the Priory at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, where it might have served as the Bishop's throne, or the Prior's seat. S.

At this end of the Hall, is erected the Minstrels Gallery, where, above, are hung several suits of armour of the make of the 17th century, and worn anciently by the attendants of the Mayor when he went to proclaim the great fair. C.

Here are several paintings, viz. half-lengths of Queen Elizabeth, James I. Charles I. and Sir Thomas White, Norton, Jesson, and Davenport, who were great benefactors to the City. Whole-lengths of Charles II. and James II. by Sir Peter Lely, in the habit of the Garter; William and Mary (copies) in their coronation robes; originals of Anne, George I. George II. and Caroline, in their coronation robes; and a capital painting of his present Majesty, by Lawrence, in the habit of the Garter, the gift of Lord Eardley, at the time of his representing this City in Parliament. S.

In the timber work of the roof we find most admirable whole-length carvings of angels playing on musical instruments; the instruments they bear are a crewth, trumpet, cittern, harp, and a bass flute.—The attitude of the performer on the harp, is truly divine. From this musical selection it appears that our ancestors minstrelsy was directed in their performances by parts in score. C.

A door-way on the East side of the Hall leads to a Chamber called the Mayoress's Parlour; a lath and plaster finishing now obliterating all the original decorations of this "bower for ladies fair." A discordant venetian window has also been inserted on the South side, which acts as a contrast to the adjoining beautiful Gothic windows of the Hall. We pass through this chamber into another of much

interest, for the light and airy workmanship of its several parts. C.

Returning into the Hall on the wall of its South-east angle (under which was until lately, a circular stair-case for the ascent into the Minstrels Gallery) is the following inscription in old English characters:—

Ther ate some which have no memorial and are become as though they hadd never bene borne, and their children after them.—And ther are that have left a name behind, so that theyr praise shal bee spoken of: Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name liveth for evermore.

ECCLESIASTICUS.

From this Gallery, we ascend into the second story, called the Armoury; much grandeur appearing in its view. From this chamber there is communication with two others, each presenting some enrichments worthy of observation. Descending again into the Hall we find, at the South end, a door-way for admittance into the kitchen (before described) by means of a flight of steps. On the right of this door-way is another modernized chamber; and on its left is the old council chamber. In this place the whole consequence of the magistracy of antiquity rises before us. Here is a large table for the books of accounts and other transactions; the Mayor's throne-like seat, and many other seats with stall embellishments; the hangings, whereon are the arms of Eliza-

beth; the massive double doors; the elaborate carved entablature round the chamber; and its pannelled flat ceiling, where, among the carvings, are the effigies of the Almighty on his throne, St. Mary, St. John, St. George, and St. Margaret, and the symbols of the four Evangelists.—Adjoining this room is the Treasury, where the writings belonging to the Corporation are deposited. C.

In one of the Drawing-rooms was to be seen within these few years, says Pennant, an antique, equally delicate and curious, which Coventry alone had the happiness of possessing, known here by the name of the *Lady's Spoon*; but it was doubtless nothing more than the *Scaphium* of the ancients, described by Cœlius Rhodiginus and Pancirollus, *Rerum memorabil. deperd.*—See Dialogues on Decency.

**CORPUS CHRISTI GILD,
IN MILL-LANE.**

THIS Gild was founded in 1348, by several inhabitants of Coventry (in honour of the body and blood of our blessed Saviour), for a priest to sing mass daily for Edward III. the founders of the Gild, and all Christian souls.^b

In 1478, Prince Edward was admitted a brother of this, and of the Trinity Gild.^b

By the survey taken in 1545, the lands and tenements belonging to this Gild produced annually the sum of 36*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* out of which were paid 16*l.* to four priests, for performing divine service in St. Michael's and the Holy Trinity Churches. To poor people, who had formerly belonged to this fraternity 5*l.*, and 5*l.* in obits.^b

SHEERMEN AND TAYLORS GILD,

*IN ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL, ADJOINING
TO GOSFORD-GATE.*

THIS Gild was founded in honour of Christ's Nativity, in the time of Richard II. who granted a licence to purchase lands in this City, of 8 marks annual value, for a priest to sing mass daily, for the souls of the founders of this fraternity, and all other Christians. Henry VI. in 1438, gave them an additional power to purchase lands of the annual value of 10 marks: he empowered them also, to choose annually, at the feast of our Lord's Nativity, four of their brethren to be Masters of the same; he likewise gave them the privilege of using a common seal; and enabled them to plead in any of the King's Courts, as a body corporate.^b

The Citizens, thus associated into different fraternities, began to consider that if more Gilds were allowed to be established, serious inconveniences might arise to those already existing; they applied therefore, in 1412, to Henry V. and obtained a patent to prohibit other Gilds from being erected in the City. But the journeymen of the different trades observing the privileges and enjoyments con-

ferred upon their masters, who were members of these fraternities, whilst themselves were entirely excluded, assembled together in different places of the City, and particularly in the Chapel of St. George. In consequence of these measures, the Mayor and Aldermen, in 1424, complained to Henry VI. that these men, in their unlawful meetings, called themselves St. George's Gild, that they might assist and abet each other in quarrels, alledging moreover, that they had chosen a master, with clerks, and officers, in contempt of the authority of the King, and to the great prejudice of the other Gilds. The King, in reply, sent a proclamation to the Mayor, &c. and commanded that these meetings should in future be prohibited.^b

This Chapel is now converted into an habitation.

In 1552, all the lands and possessions belonging to the Gilds and Chantries were purchased from the Crown, by the Mayor, &c. of this City, for the sum of 1,315*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*^b

Rapin, in his History of England, notices a large bone affixed to a part of the above building, which was imagined by some to be the vast shield-bone of a boar, who with his nose excavated the pool, near this City, now called Swanswell, or, as in ancient charters, Swineswell; which boar was afterwards killed by Guy Earl of Warwick.—Others, with more probability, suppose it to be nothing more than the bone of some animal, remarkable for its size.

THE FREE SCHOOL.

AT the lower end of Cross Cheaping stands the Free School, which appears to have been the Chapel of St. John's Hospital, founded in the beginning of the reign of Henry II. by Laurence, Prior of Coventry, and his Monastery, at the request of Edmund Archdeacon of Coventry, for the reception of the sick and needy. This Edmund procured a confirmation of it from Richard Archbishop of Canterbury, and was at the expence of erecting the building.— In 1221, Pope Honorius III. by his bull, dated at the Lateran, June 15, granted to the Friars of this Hospital a special protection for their persons and possessions.^b

The first of their benefactors were Roger de Montalt and his wife Cecily, who, in 1248, directed the foresters of the Prior and Monastery of Coventry, to give a cart-load of wood every week to the Friars of this Hospital. On July 24, 1261, they obtained letters of protection from Henry III. for all those who should be employed in gathering alms from all charitable persons. Several bulls likewise from Popes Urban IV. and V. granted them exemptions

from secular exactions. Estates and rents to a very considerable amount were, at various times, given to them by many charitable persons. An allowance in bread, beer, and two messes of meat (as much as was sufficient for the daily support of two monks), was likewise granted them by the monks of Coventry, at the founding of this Hospital.^b

By the survey taken in 1534, the annual value of the revenues belonging to this Hospital was 99*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* out of which the following payments were made—viz. 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* annually, to the Mayor and Chamberlains of this City, towards the repair of the walls; 1*l.* 6*s.* per annum in bread and beer given to the poor at the gate of the Hospital; 3*l.* yearly for the purchase of twenty beds for the reception of poor persons and strangers; 16*l.* per annum for the salary of three priests serving there; all of which, with other deductions not mentioned, amounted to 32*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* per annum, leaving the clear annual value, as certified at that time, 67*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*^b

This Hospital, when dissolved by the Parliament, in 1545, was by the King's letters patent, dated July 23, in the same year, with all its lands and possessions, granted to John Hales, Esq. This gentleman, who shared largely in the plunder of the Church, and had neither wife nor child, converted this foundation, which he had purchased at a very cheap rate, into a Free School; endowed it with 200

marks per annum in land, and dedicated it to King Henry VIII. On the front of the building was the following inscription:—^b

Schola Regis Henrici Octavi, a Johanne Hales, Armigero, fundata, in qua bonis literis imbuantur pueri, usque ad consummationem sæculi, in Christi gloriam, & Ecclesiæ ædificationem.

In the time of Edward VI. complaints were made to the Lord Chancellor, during Mr. Hales's absence in Germany, by some of the Magistrates of this City, shewing that Henry VIII. had granted and given to the said Mr. Hales certain houses and lands, which he unjustly detained to his own use, though the same were designed by the King for the foundation of a School.—And when Queen Elizabeth, in 1565, came to this City, Mr. Throgmorton, then Recorder, in his Speech to her Majesty, among other things represented—“ That her most noble Father founded in this City, for the maintenance of learning, a Free School, or rather College; and for continuance thereof, passed, or let go from him, certain lands of great price, which the City enjoyed not, but were unjustly deprived of. For the redress whereof, the Mayor and Commonalty most humbly besought her Highness to give gracious hearing.” The Queen extremely incensed at this charge, immediately gave orders, that Sir William Cecil, one of her principal Secretaries of State, should make enquiry into the matter.—But neither of these attempts succeeded; for Sir William,

as well as the Lord Chancellor, upon an examination of Mr. Hales's patent, found no mention of any houses or lands reserved for the maintenance of a School. This unkind treatment of Mr. Hales, induced him to forego a noble design of establishing a College in this City, similar to those of Westminster, or Eton.—*See Coventry Charities.*

Mr. Hales died in 1573, and by his will directed his executors to convey to the Mayor, &c. of this City, the scite of the Hospital and lands, with messuages, gardens, &c. lying in Coventry (belonging to the late dissolved Priories of Coventry and Kenilworth), together with the White Friars, Bastille, and Hill mills, in order, that out of the rents of the said property, the annual sum of 20*l.* should be paid to a Schoolmaster to teach grammar in the School; 10*l.* to an Usher; 2*l.* 12*s.* per annum to a music-master, to instruct every scholar who should be willing to learn to sing, three times every week; and 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum to a bailiff, to collect the rents, and see that the houses were kept in good repair; the residue was to be employed in repairing the above houses, and augmenting the salaries of the Schoolmaster and Usher.^b

This School was first established by Mr. John Hales at the White Friars Church, and the scholars sat in the seats of the choir; but the Magistrates finding, that although Mr. Hales had bought the

lands, he had not bought the Church, obtained a grant of it from the Crown, and pulled it down, whereby Mr. Hales was obliged to remove the scholars and the seats to their present situation.^a

In 1794, in order to widen the street, the old front of the School was taken down, and a new-one re-built a little farther back, upon great piles of wood driven into the earth. On digging the new foundation, the base, and part of a pillar much older than any portion of the present structure were found.

The Chapel of the Hospital, now reduced to little more than a portion of one aisle, is the present School; and the Master resides in the house formerly inhabited by the Master of the Hospital; and the Usher in another House upon the scite*^a

and sisters also were employed to write in prayers with the lepers for the good estate of all their bene-

factory.

This Hospital belonged in 1250 to the Abbey of Basingwerk, in Flintshire; but was shortly afterwards appropriated by the monks of Coventry to their own use, but at length it came to the Crown, and so it continued until the 14th year of Edward IV; in which he gave it to the Canons of Studley, by the name of "The Free Chapel of St. Mary Magdalen, at Spout, near Coventry," in order to obtain their

* For further particulars respecting this Establishment, see a publication entitled Coventry Charities.

SPON HOSPITAL.

ON the western side of the City, are the remains of Spon Hospital, consisting of a Chapel and Gateway, now converted into habitations. It was founded in the time of Henry II. for such lepers as might happen to be in Coventry, by Hugh Kevelioc, Earl of Chester, out of affection to William de Auney, a knight of the household, who was afflicted with that dreadful complaint. A priest was appointed to pray both for the living and the dead.—Certain brethren and sisters also, were enjoined to unite in prayers with the lepers for the good estate of all their benefactors.^b

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The loathsome disorder, which gave rise to this and other similar institutions, was introduced into England, in the reign of Henry I. and was supposed to have been brought out of Egypt, or the East, by means of the Crusades. To add to its horrors, it was contagious. All the minor *Lazar* houses in England, appear to have been subject to the rich house at Burton Lazar, in Leicestershire, which, itself, was dependent upon that in Jerusalem. They were usually dedicated to St. Lazarus, from whom they derived their name.^a

BABLAKE HOSPITAL.

BEHIND St. John's Church stands Bablake Hospital; an old building, nearly surrounding a small court; one part of which is occupied by Alms Houses, founded in 1506, by Thomas Bond, a draper, who had been Mayor of Coventry, in 1497. This Establishment was intended for the reception of ten poor men and one poor woman, with a priest to pray for the souls of the founder, his father, grandfather, and all Christian souls. It was endowed with lands of the yearly value of 49*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*; out of which were paid every Saturday to the poor above-mentioned, 6*s.* 8*d.* which amounted to the annual sum of 17*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* The priest received annually 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and 20*s.* for a gown; with 3*l.* 16*s.* per annum were purchased 38 yards of black cloth to make gowns for the men; alms were distributed to the poor, to the amount of 13*s.* 4*d.*; 1*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* was appropriated to the purchase of wood for the benefit of the inhabitants of this Hospital, and the bailiff's salary amounted to 2*l.* per annum; the whole of these annual expences being 39*l.* 6*s.*^b

The dissolution of the Gilds and Chantries, &c. in

1547, included this establishment; but in the following year, that part of the possessions which belonged to the Gild was granted by Edward VI. by letters patent, dated December 12, to the Bailiffs and Commonalty of this City, in burgage, paying an acknowledgment of 1d. per annum.^b

The following inscription still remains on the walls:

This Hospital was founded A. D. 1506, by Mr. Thomas Bond, Draper, sometime Mayor and Alderman of this City, for ten men and one woman: who gave certain lands for maintenance thereof, which his son John Bond continued during his life. But Thomas, the son of John, claimed those lands as his own; whereupon the City sued him in Chancery, and had a Decree against him, which cost them a great sum of money for certain lands valued then at 20*l.* per annum.

In the seventh year of K. James I. the said lands were questioned as concealed from the Crown: which lands & tenements the City were enforced again to purchase of the King to their very great cost and expences. Notwithstanding the City have continued the charitable uses as formerly: And as the lands have been improved, so hath ye maintenance of the old men been bettered, and each man's place is now worth eleven pounds by the year.

Mr. Sim. Norton, Draper, Mayor and Alderman of this City, An. D. 1641, gave 500 marks for and towards the maintenance of one man, and one boy, in this Hospital of Bablake, and one man and woman in Grey-Friars-Hospital: which man and boy are accordingly placed in this House; and the City at their own charge makes their maintenance equal with the rest of the Hospital-men and boys.

The following inscription was also to be seen a few years ago:—

In the year 1560, this Hospital for Boys was first erected in the place where now it is, being a house of the City's; and was for some years maintained by the City, and the charity of well-disposed people, of Citizens and Strangers, till Mr. Wheatley in an. 1566, settled some lands towards the maintenance thereof; and other benefactors since, have given, in all, with his gift, about 96*l.* per ann. which being not sufficient to maintain xxi Boys and a Nurse, and place them out apprentices, the City doth make up the rest, being above 40*l.* a year, one year with another.

By Mr. Bond's will, dated March 18, 1506 (being the day of his death), he directed that there should be ordained and established a Bead-house, in Bablake, upon the North side, for ten poor men, and a woman to dish their meat and drink;—provided that the said men shall be chosen from the Trinity Gild out of those that have paid all their fines; and for lack or default of such, out of those that have most need, and have paid part, less or more, after the discretion of Mr. Mayor and his brethren;—provided also, that these men be chosen at a *general day* of Trinity Gild; and that the ten poor men with the woman, have every year a gown of black, with a hood, and that they be every day at the beginning of mattins, mass, and evening song; and say three times every day, our Lady's psalter for the brethren, and sisters of the said Gild.—And that the said ten men shall be bounden daily, after they have supped, to go into the church, and there kneeling, every man to say fifteen paternosters, and fifteen ayes, and three creeds, in the

worship of the passion of Jesus Christ, and then to drink and go to bed.—Also he wills and ordains that a devout secular priest, a master of arts at the least, who shall occupy himself, and give him diligently to preach the word of God and his Holy Gospels, shall have for his labour twenty marks by the year, and a gown cloth, and for his hood five yards (price per yard 5s.)—That all the lands he hath shall remain in his feoffees hands, to the use of his executors, until such time as all his debts and bequests be paid and performed.—That then as much be appointed out of his best lands as will establish his will in Bablake for the said ten poor men and women; and also for the said master, that shall preach; and that done, the residue of all his lands shall remain to his heir.—And that the said priest that shall preach, shall be at every general day to give his best advice, and also to read his will, that the ten men may know whether things be done according to his will.—And that there be at least one general day every year.—*See Coventry Charities.*

To perform this will, Mr. Bond put some lands in feoffment, which was continued by his son John, who by his will in 1536, ordered his son Thomas to give lands to the City for the performance of his father's will; but he in 1552, not only refused to perform this direction, but claimed the lands as his own. Upon which the Chancery decreed, that he should make over to the City a good estate of lands, being a part

of the property of his late grandfather, to the value of 20*l.* per annum at least.^b

Another account says, that it seems much more credible, that Thomas Bond did, in pursuance of his father John's will, set forth lands for the use of the said Hospital, but that those lands were not sufficient to answer the original design of the donation; and that therefore, the City sued him in Chancery for an addition thereunto of 20*l.* per annum.—*See Coventry Charities.*

The inscription seems very faulty in many respects; for there is no mention made of the secular priest, who had an ample provision made for him by Mr. Bond, and was as much upon the foundation as the ten men and the woman.—*Ibid.*

By the above decree it was ordered, that the men to be chosen into the Hospital, should be inhabitants of the said City, ten years at least, of good character, and above the age of 40 years (another authority says 50), impotent, and poor.^b

Since this time, the Charity has been continued by the City, and as the lands have been improved, so the men's allowance has from time to time been considerably augmented.^b

About the year 1619, John Johnson, one of the alms-men of this Hospital, poisoned several of his

brethren with ratsbane, as it was afterwards discovered. His crime was supposed to originate from his ambition of becoming the senior of the House.— Abraham Bingham, William Jenkins, Ralph Horn, Robert Fox, and Robert Bradshaw, all died suddenly; George Porter was sick three hours, Edward Woodhouse four, and William Bird five. Johnson being suspected and questioned, poisoned himself; and the fact not being immediately discovered, he was buried in the church-yard. He was however afterwards taken up, viewed, and buried again; but upon further enquiry he was taken up a second time, opened, and found to be poisoned.—He was then buried in Leicester highway, and a stake was driven through his body according to law.^b

There are, at this time, 42 poor men, who receive 4s. a week each for their subsistence; with a gown, hat, fuel, and other advantages. Those of the above number, who choose to reside in the Hospital, have each a small room with a bed in it to himself. There are also a nurse and servant resident at the Hospital who attend upon them, and cook their provisions in a large kitchen.

Mr. Thomas Wheatley, ironmonger and card-maker, was Mayor of Coventry, in 1556. He came hither very poor, but afterwards his wealth increased to a very considerable amount; of the manner in which this increase took place, the following cir-

cumstance is recorded:—He sent his servant, one Oughton, into Spain, to buy some barrels of steel gads, which he did, as he thought, in open fair; but when they were opened, they were found to be either cochineal, or ingots of silver. The servant not knowing of whom he bought them, Mr. Wheatley kept them by him for a considerable time, supposing that some enquiry would naturally take place upon the subject, but no enquiry being ever made, he gave the profits of these articles, as well as the greatest part of his fortune to charitable purposes. Among other donations, he gave some lands towards the maintenance of the Boys Hospital, in this place, which had been previously founded in 1560.^b

Since this time, many other charitable benefactions have been received by this Hospital. The present number of boys is 24; for whom clothing, maintenance, and education in the useful branches of learning, are provided by this excellent charity; and at a proper age they receive each a new suit of clothes, and two pounds to put them out apprentices. The master resides in a house adjoining to the Hospital. A nurse and servant reside in the Hospital. It is a pleasing and heart-felt gratification to view, on a Sunday, the old men, followed by the boys, walking in decent and orderly procession to church.

GREY FRIARS HOSPITAL.

NEAR to the ruins of Grey Friars Church stands this Hospital. Its front presents an elegant display of ancient architecture; and its richness is still further preserved in the court, which appears to have received no architectural innovations since the time of its foundation. The foundation is shewn by the following inscription still remaining upon the walls:—

May the 4. An. 1529, Mr. William Ford of this City, Merchant of the Staple, founded this Almshouse, for five Men and one Woman; and gave to each of them five pence a week for their maintenance. Afterwards Mr. William Pifford, his Executor, gave other lands, and appointed six Men and their Wives to be placed therein and each Couple to have seven-pence half-penny a week. But Mr. William Wigston, having power from both of them, to alter, add, or diminish their wills; for the better ordering of the said House, did ordain, that there should be but five Men, and their Wives, and a Nurse*, and each Couple to have seven-pence-halfpenny a week, and the Nurse the same.

* And in the room of the sixth poor man and his wife, there shall be one honest poor woman of the said City taken into the Beadhouse, who shall be between 40 and 50 years of age, to superintend these five poor men and their wives, as necessity shall require, in cleanliness, cooking, washing, &c. The same William directed, that when any of the women died before their husbands, the man was still to have the whole wages of 7½d.; but if the husband died before the wife, she was to have but half the weekly stipend.

In the seventh year of King James I. the lands given to this Hospital, were questioned as concealed from the Crown*; and were again purchased by the City; who have ever since maintained the charitable use, with a great addition out of the Chamber of the City. In the year 1621, the City added another Man and Woman at their own charge; so that there is now six Couple, besides the Nurse; each Couple being allowed two shillings weekly, and the Nurse one shilling a week, although there be not any advance of the rent to the City.

Mr. Thomas Lasson, second son of Mr. William Lasson, Alderman, deceased, in and by his last will and testament, bearing date the 24th day of July, 1656, hath founded two poor men in this Hospital for ever, who are to have four shillings the week for their maintenance. Mr. Simon Norton, Alderman of this City, gave towards the maintenance of one Man and Woman in this Hospital, for which the City doth allow two shillings a week also, as the rest have; so that there is now seven Couple and a Nurse in this Hospital.

Part of William Pisford, the Elder's Will.^b

In the name of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, three Persons and one very God, Amen. I William Pisford, of Coventry, being whole and in perfect mind and remembrance, the 2d day of May, 1517, with mine own handwriting, write and make this my last will. I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, the Father of Heaven, beseeching him to take it into the hands of his everlasting mercy and grace, and to make me partaker of the rewards and merits of the blessed passion and death of Jesus Christ his only Son, through the intercession and prayers of that most holy and blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our blessed Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ, mother of mercy and of grace; and

* Because by the will of the donor, there was appointed an yearly pension of 6*l.* per annum, to maintain a priest to say mass twice a week, and to pray for the souls of William Ford, and Henry and William Pisford, and the souls of their wives, &c.

through the intercession and prayers of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, John and James, Bartholomew, St. John Baptist, Mary Magdalen, St. Catherine, with all the number of Heaven, as Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, and Virgins, and all Angels and Saints, to pray for me; and my body to be buried in the Chapel of St. Catherine, in the Church of St. Michael, in Coventry, before the image of St. John the Evangelist, by Annis, Joan, and Eleanor, late my wives. And I bequeath unto the high altar of my forgotten tithes, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* and to the altar of St. John, in the same church, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* and for my burial in the same church, 6*s.* 8*d.* and to the repairs of the same church, 40*s.* and to the Charter-house of Coventry, 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and to the White Friars in Coventry, 20*s.* and to the Grey Friars in Coventry, 20*s.* and to the common-box in St. Mary's Hall, which I caused to be set there myself, to be applied to the common weal, and for the commonwealth when they shall have need, and no otherwise to be used, 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Also I bequeath to be dealt in alms at the time of my burial amongst the poor folks at their houses on the same day, or on the morrow, 10*l.* and 10*l.* more within the space of a month or six weeks after, and especially then to look upon poor householders as can be known have need, and be ashamed to ask. Also, I bequeath unto thirteen poor maidens marrying, 13*l.* that is, 20*s.* a piece in the worship of Jesus Christ and his twelve Apostles. Item, I bequeath to be given unto poor people of women five-score pair of cards and thirty wheels. Also I bequeath to the mending of the ways about this city, where most need is, 5*l.* I bequeath to the mending and renewing of such vestments as be belonging to one altar of St. Catherine, in St. Michael's church, 20*s.* Also I bequeath unto one fellowship to bring me to church, 10*s.* that is to wit, 6*s.* 8*d.* to one craft, and 3*s.* 4*d.* to the bearers. Also I bequeath to the craft of the Drapers, towards their Priest's wages, 6*s.* 8*d.* and also I bequeath unto the fellowship of the Taylors and Sheermans for the same, 6*s.* 8*d.* and also to the craft of the Tanners, 6*s.* 8*d.* and to every other craft that either find Priest or Pageant to the augmentation of the service of God, or to the worship and upholding of the laudable custom of the City, 3*s.* 4*d.* a piece. Also I will that for the term of 10 years,

there be dealt about Allhallow-tide, twenty frize gowns, and 20 shirts and smocks, to poor and most needy men and women. Also, I will, that there be dealt every year, for the space of ten years, in the most coolest of winter, at divers times, a thousand faggots a year. Also I bequeath unto poor scholars of Oxford and Cambridge to help them towards their exhibitions, such as can be known of likely towardness and virtue, 20*l.* to be ordered by the distribution of my Executors, &c. Also, I will, that there be bought four copes of a suit (i. e. vestments for Bishops and Priests), and to be given to the Church of St. Michael, in Coventry, to the value of 40*l.* or 50*l.*—He ordered also an *Obit* on the day of his departure, to be yearly performed, for which he appointed to ten Priests 4*d.* a piece, to two clerks 4*d.* to two choristers 2*d.* for lights 6*d.* for setting forth of the hearse 2*d.* for the pall 4*d.* for ringing 8*d.* to the bellman 4*d.* for bread and ale 20*d.* spice 20*d.* in wine 20*d.* to the Mayor 20*d.* to the Steward 6*d.* to the Sword Bearer 4*d.* to the poor people 6*s.* 8*d.* He gave his scarlet gown and crimson gown to the Tanners and others to make use of them at the times of the plays.

Part of Henry Pisford's Will, in 1522.

[Preamble nearly the same as the former.]

He wills, that as soon as possible after his decease, five trentals should be said for him in the worship of the five wounds of our Blessed Lord, in five days; and the priest that says mass, to remember the first day the wounds of his right hand; the second day, the wounds of his left hand; the third day, the wounds of his most precious and blessed heart; the fourth and the fifth days, the wounds of his two feet; to have him in remembrance, and to pray to the blessed Lord of Heaven, for the blood that he shed out of those five wounds to have mercy on him, and take him to his

grace.—And in worship of the said five wounds, he willed that his executor should cause to be made five lights, and set them before the picture of our Lord, in the Grey Friars Church. He directed that 100 marks should be given for the enlargement of the Rood Chapel in that Church. He ordered eight marks to be given to a Priest to sing for the souls of himself, his brother William, his father and mother, and all Christians, for ten years after his decease. He gave his house at St. Albans, to the Charter House, near Coventry, the monks of which latter place, were to sing a mass of requiem for him once in a year, about the time that he should depart this world; and to give the same day 3s. 4d. in alms to poor people, and thus to continue for ever.^b

This institution also received the benefactions of several other charitable persons; and at this time contains 18 poor women, besides the nurse, and two old men, each receiving 2s. 6d. per week, and 34 cwt. of coals annually; blue gowns are likewise given them once in three years.

CHEYLESMORE.

THE situation of the manor of Cheylesmore, is on the South side of the City; but the antiquity of its name cannot be traced farther back than to 1250, when Roger de Montalt and Cecily, in their grant to the monks, excepted it by the name of their mansion, or manor-house of Cheylesmore. A castle, belonging to the Earl of Chester, anciently stood in this place, as appears from the siege which took place in King Stephen's reign, by Ranulph the second.^a

In the charter made by Hugh Kevelioc, Earl of Chester, to the monks of Coventry, in the time of Henry II. pointing out the boundaries, and dividing the Earl's part from the Prior's, he traces it from St. Michael's church-yard, "nearly to the broad-gate"

* In the summer of 1792, Broad-gate was excavated to the depth of five or six feet, when a regular pavement was discovered, and upon that pavement, a coin of Nero, in middle brass. Warwick and Manceter are generally allowed to have been Roman stations; that there was a communication between them cannot be doubted, and probably so much, that a road was made for that purpose between these two places, which being in a straight line, according to the Roman method, would pass through Coventry, Foleshill, Exhall, and the celebrated Roman Camp, at Camphill, towards Manceter.—See *Gent. Mag.* for 1793.

of my castle;" these were his very words.—Where this broad-gate stood is sufficiently known to this day: the place still retains its name, in its direction from the High-street into Cross Cheaping; and considering that it reached so far North, it proves that the circuit of the outer ward to that castle was of great extent.^b

In 1275, the manor-house of Cheylesmore, with its park and mill, were valued at 5 marks per annum.^b

In 1278, the monks of Coventry obtained a licence from Edward I. and converted the land round Cheylesmore into a Park, which, according to the measure of those days, contained 436 acres of waste lands and woods.—*MS.*

In 1327, Robert de Montalt and his wife Emma, levied a fine upon this manor and its appurtenances; in consequence of which they received an annual rent of 96*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* with the services of the Prior of Coventry.^b

After the death of John Eltham, Earl of Cornwall, Edward III. in 1337, conferred upon his son Edward, called the *Black Prince*, and his heirs, the reversion of the Dukedom of Cornwall, after the decease of Queen Isabel; and in default of such issue, it reverted to the Crown.^b

Many privileges were afterwards bestowed upon this place. Edward III. in 1345, granted to his

Queen Isabel, during her life, and to the Prince, and his heirs in reversion, a court leet, within this manor, with power to adjudge such causes, as were generally taken before the Justices of Assize for the County of Warwick; they were empowered also to have a return of writs, relating to the good of felons and fugitives, within the district; and likewise to erect a goal for the custody of felons.^b

In 1347, William le Galeys was licenced to found a chantry here, consisting of three priests, one of whom was to be the Warden; and also to build a chapel, in honour of the Blessed Virgin, with a convenient mansion for the residence of its officers.^b

It should seem that even in those days the Park at Coventry was not without deer, for a licence, it appears, was granted to Thomas de Quinton, to be keeper of the pasturage for six years, on the payment of 5*l.* annually, and reserving sufficient grass for the deer.^b

In those times, this Park was a woody ground; for it appears, that the King directed Richard Clerk, the keeper, to cut down as much wood as would make 3000 faggots, and with the money arising from the sale, to repair the pales.

About the year 1388, several roods of land were separated from the Great Park and called the Little Park. The Great Park was now leased to several

inhabitants of Coventry, to create a tenantry to Cheylesmore.—*MS.*

In 1422, "A dooke stool was made upon Cheylesmore Green, to punish scolders and chiders, as ye law wylls."—*MS.*

Henry VIII. in 1524, granted a lease of this manor, with the herbage of the Park, and the rabbits, to Geoffrey Whalley, Prior of Ulverscroft, in Leicestershire, for twenty-one years, at the rent of 13*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*^b

Edward VI. in 1549, by letters patent, dated July 19, granted Cheylesmore with the Park, to John Duke of Northumberland, and his heirs, as being part of the possessions annexed to the Duchy of Cornwall, by charter, to hold the same *in capite*. This Duke, on the 12th of August following, made a lease of the premises to the Mayor, Bailiffs, &c. of the City, for 99 years, upon the following conditions—That they and their successors, should pasture annually in the Park, 80 cows or heifers, and 20 geldings, belonging to the poor inhabitants of the City; and that they should pay for every cow or heifer 1*d.* and for every gelding 2*d.** But after the attainder of Northumberland, which happened in 1553, the Mayor, &c. through the mediation of Robert Earl of Leicester, obtained a grant from Queen Elizabeth, in 1568, to hold the above premises to them and their suc-

* See inscription on a brass plate in St. Mary's Hall, p. 195.

cessors for ever, in fee ferme, under several stipulations; the reserved rent of which was 9*l.* per annum.^b

A framed timber building, formerly a part of the manor-house, with a gateway beneath, which was built, perhaps, after the destruction of the castle, is still remaining. The castle stood near the manor house.^a

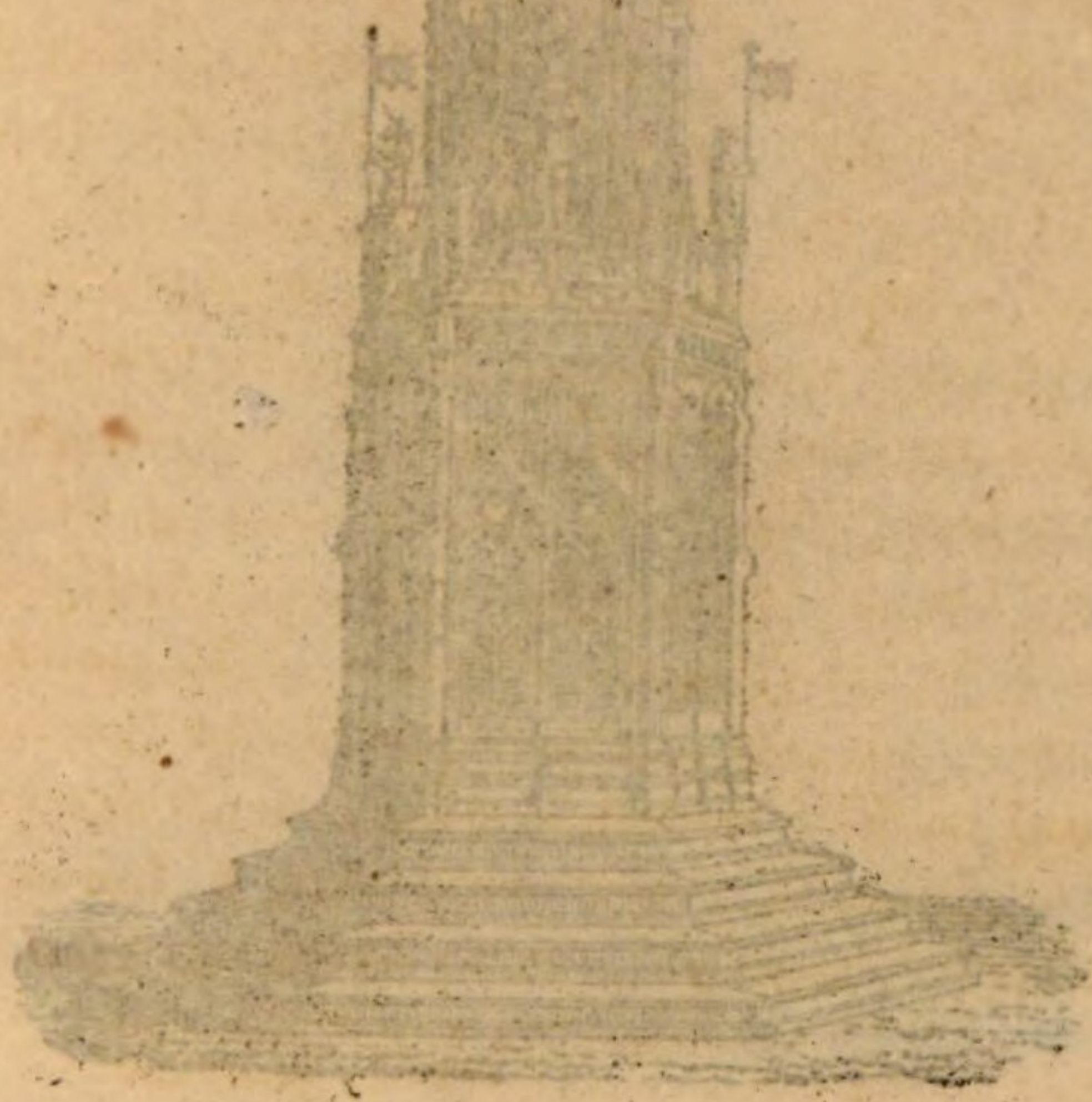
The Park, about three miles in circumference, was lately the property of the Prince of Wales, inherited by him as Earl of Chester; but within these few years was sold (under the authority of Parliament for the redemption of the Land Tax) to the Marquis of Hertford, and is now nearly inclosed.

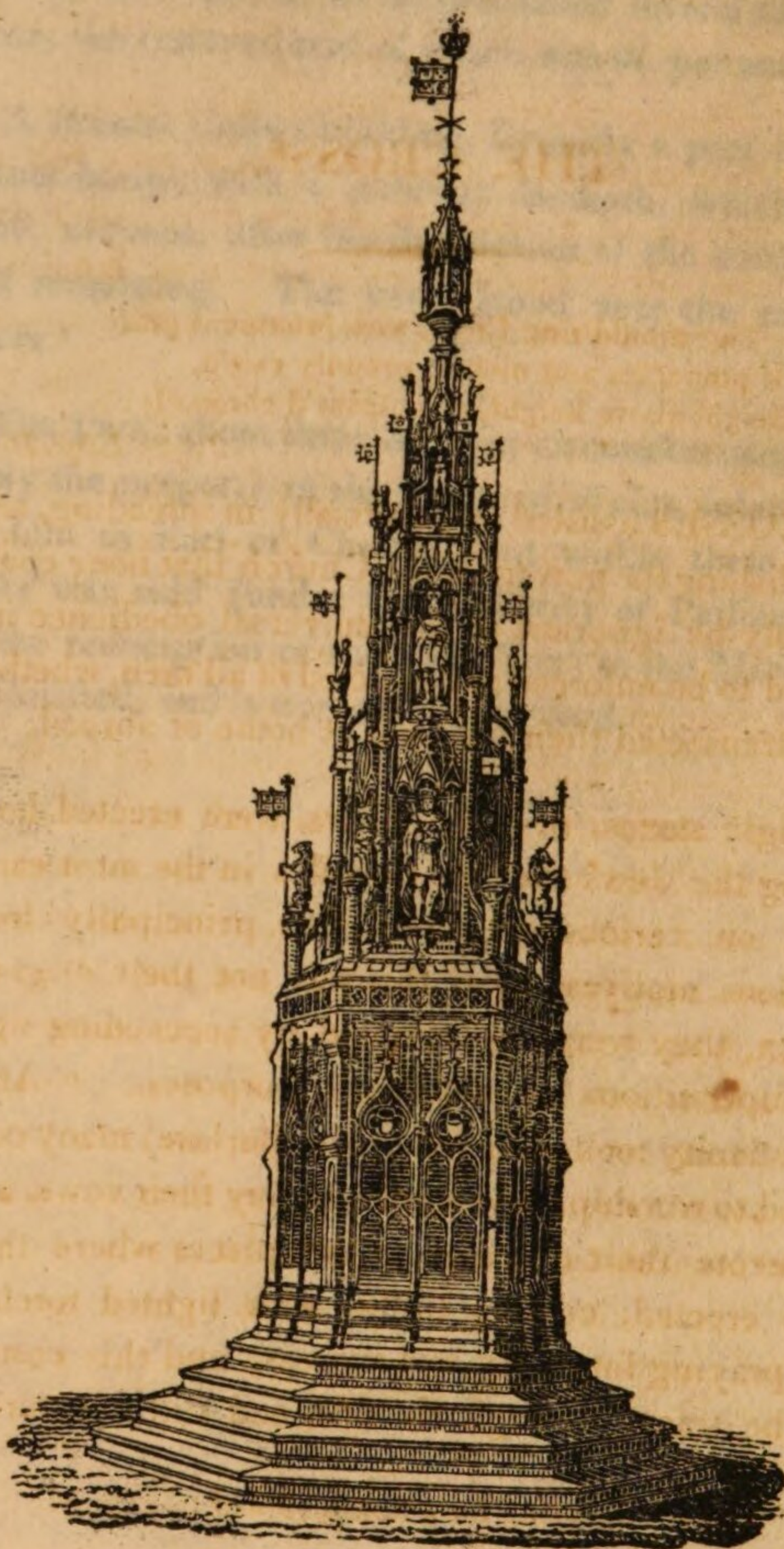
^a See inscription on a brass plate in St. Mary's Hall, p. 128.

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THE CROSS*.

Thy mould'ring Cross, with ornament profuse,
Of pinnacles and niches, proudly rais'd,
Height above height, a sculptur'd chronicle!

Jago's Edge-Hill.

CROSSES assisted so universally in spreading, and establishing the powers of the Church that none could possibly be ignorant of the universal obedience intended to be enforced and exacted of all men, whether they transacted their business at home or abroad.

Single stones, or rude pillars, were erected both among the Jews and the Gentiles in the most early ages, on various occasions, but principally from religious motives; or if this was not their *original* design, they were appropriated by succeeding ages to superstitious or idolatrous purposes. "After Christianity took place (says Mr. Borlase) many continued to worship these stones, to pay their vows, and to devote their offerings at the places where they were erected, coming thither with lighted torches, and praying for safety and success; and this custom can be traced through the fifth and sixth centuries,

* See Engraving for a South view of this Cross.

even to the seventh, as appears from the prohibitions of several councils."

"Crosses were frequently placed (says Mr. Astle) on the spot where any singular instance of God's mercy had been shewn, or where a person had been murdered by robbers, or had met with any violent death. They were also erected, where the corpse of any great person had rested, as it was carried to be buried; and they were very often placed in churchyards to remind the people of the benefits vouchsafed to us by the Cross of Christ; and, in early times, they were observed, at most places of public concourse; or at the meeting of three, or more roads, or highways. At these Crosses the corpse in carrying to church was set down that all the people attending might pray for the soul of the departed. It was customary for mendicants to station themselves at Crosses, for the purpose of soliciting alms for Christ's sake; hence they say in the North of England, when a person is urgent and vehement, *He begged like a cripple at a Cross*. Penances were often finished at Crosses, which concluded with weeping, and the usual marks of contrition. Near the town of Stafford stood a Cross called *Weeping-Cross*, from its being a place designated for the expiation of offences."

Among the most celebrated in England, of modern construction, was the Cross at Coventry, begun in the year 1541, and finished in 1544; an example of

the perfection to which the ornamental Gothic stile of building had at that time arrived. Sir William Hollis, formerly Lord Mayor of London (son of Thomas Hollis of Stoke, near Coventry), left by his will 200*l.* for the building of this Cross, after the form of one then erected at Abingdon, in Berkshire, as is testified by the following extract from his will, dated December 25, 1541:—

“ And furthermore, I give and bequeath unto the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Coventry, and to the Commons of the same, 200*l.* sterling, to the intent and purpose hereafter ensuing, that is to say, to make a new Cross within the City: Whereof delivered in hand to Mr. Warren, draper, of the said City, the 24th day of August last, 20*l.* in ready money: And also more paid to Mr. Over, by the hands of Salt, my bailey, of Yoxall, 70*l.* in ready money; and so resteth unpaid 110*l.* sterling, which I will and desire my executors see to be delivered and paid unto the said Mayor and Aldermen of Coventry aforesaid, to the use and intent aforesaid, within one year after my decease, &c.”

This Gothic pile was six square; each side seven feet at the base, finely diminishing, pyramidically, in three stories, 57 feet high, with 18 niches.—The canopy was beautifully adorned with statues, some of which were brought from the White Friars.—The pillars, pinnacles, and arches, were enriched with a variety of figures, with flags, on which were displayed the arms of England, or the rose of Lancaster; representations were added of the founder, trades, and companies; and the whole was so finely finished, that it was inferior to none in England, for workmanship

and beauty. On the summit of the uppermost story was a figure of Justice, with other gracious attributes. The statues were in the following order, beginning on the South side:—In the upper story was a Religious Habit, St. Peter, a Religious Habit, St. James the Minor, and St. Christopher. In the second story, Edward III. St. Michael, Henry III. St. George, and King Richard II. In the lower story, Henry VI. King John, Edward I. Henry II. Richard I. and Henry V.^b

Indenture relating to the building of the Cross.^b

An Indenture of Covenant between Cuthbert Joyner, Simon Parker, John Jett, Aldermen of the City of Coventry; and Henry Over, and Christopher Warren, Citizens, of the same, on the one party: and Thomas Phillips, free-mason, and John Pettit, of Wellingborough, in the County of Northampton, on the other party.

Thomas Phillips and John Pettit covenant for them, their executors and administrators, that for nine-score and seven pounds, six shillings, and eight-pence, to be to them truly paid as after shall be expressed, &c. before the feast of St. Michael, the Archangel, which shall be in anno Domini 1543, they would build substantially, and workmanly make and set up, and fully finish a new Cross of good, sure, seasonable free-stone of the quarries of Attleborough, or Rowington, in the County of Warwick, or of both the said quarries; except the stones belonging to the steps of the same Cross, which shall be had and made of hard stone, in the late Priory, of the said City, at the only proper costs and charges and expences of the said Thomas Phillips and John Pettit, and their assigns.

The same Cross to be erected and set up at the Market-place, in the said City, called Cross Cheaping, in such place

there, as the old Cross* now standeth, after the manner, form, fashion, and due proportion, in all points of a Cross ready made and set up in the town of Abingdon, in the County of Berks.

And further, to set on every principal pinnacle on the lowest story of the same new Cross, the image of a beast or a fowl holding up a fan; and on every principal pinnacle in the second story, the image of a naked boy with a target, and holding up a fan.

And that the same new Cross, before the feast of the nativity of St. John Baptist, which shall be in the year of our Lord God 1542, shall be wrought, made, and set up of the height of twenty feet above the highest step of the same Cross, except only the workmanship of the images, finials, and other pictures. And that the same new Cross, before the feast of St. Michael, the Archangel, then next ensuing, shall be made, wrought, and set up, of the height of twenty-five feet above the highest step of the same Cross. And that before the feast of the nativity of St. John Baptist, which shall be in the year of our Lord God, 1543, it shall be made, wrought, and set up, the height of forty feet above the said highest step.

And that before the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, then next ensuing, the said Cross shall be fully made, wrought, and set up, to the height of forty-five feet, or higher, if the said Cross in Abingdon be higher above the said highest step, and finished in all points, as well in imagery work, pictures, and finials, as otherwise, according to the due form and proportion of the said Cross, in Abingdon.

And further, the said Thomas Phillips, and John Pettit covenant and grant to find all lead and iron belonging to the same Cross, and all stone, lime, and sand, with the work and carriage of the same, and all other necessities whatsoever they be, to be had and expended about the same.

* This Cross was built upon eight pillars, at the expence of 50*l*.—It was erected in 1422, and taken down in 1510.

Cross, at their costs, and charges, and expences; and also at their charge to prepare, find, and make an house or lodge for masons to work in, during the time of making the same Cross.

Provided always, and it is agreed between the said parties, that the said Cuthbert Joyner, Simon Parker, John Jett, Henry Over, and Christopher Warren, shall find all fans to be set in the said Cross, and all iron and lead belonging to the same fans, and also six or eight old images to be set in the said Cross, if they will serve and be thought meet for the same work, or else not; the same images to be repaired and cleansed at the charges of the said Thomas Phillips and John Pettit.

Provided always also, and it is agreed between the said parties, that whereas the said Cross in Abingdon hath eight steps, the new Cross to be made in Coventry aforesaid, shall have but four steps.

Provided also, and it is agreed between the said parties, that where the said Cross in Abingdon is begun in eight panes, and changed in the second story into six panes, to the deformity of the same Cross—this new Cross to be made in Coventry, shall begin in six panes until the full finishing of the same.

In consideration of which Cross to be wrought, made, set up, and finished in form above-written, the said Cuthbert Joyner, Simon Parker, John Jett, Henry Over, and Christopher Warren, covenant by these presents to pay, or cause to be paid unto the said John Pettit and Thomas Phillips, or

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their assigns ixviii^l. vis. viiid.* sterling, in manner and form following: that is to say, the 18th day of July next ensuing the date hereof, 6^l. 13s. 4d. and every fourth Friday then next ensuing, and immediately following, 6^l. 13s. 4d. till the sum of 73^l. 6s. 8d. more be fully paid. And when the said Cross is at the height of twenty feet above the highest step of the same (except the images, pictures, and finials), then

* Viz. 187^l. 6s. 8d.

to pay on the Friday next, after the accomplishment of the said Cross of the said height of twenty feet, 6*l.* and then to pay every fourth Friday after, 6*l.* until the sum of 12*l.* be more paid. And when the said Cross is at the height of twenty-five feet above the highest step, then to pay every Friday after 6*l.* until the sum of 53*l.* be more paid. And when the said Cross is at the height of forty feet above the highest step, then to pay on the Friday next, before St. Margaret's day next, after the accomplishment of the said Cross of the height of forty feet, 6*l.* and every fourth Friday next after, 6*l.* until the sum of 12*l.* be more paid. And when the said Cross is fully finished in all points according to the said bargain, and according to the purport and effect of these Indentures, then to pay unto Thomas Phillips and John Pettit, or their assigns, 17*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in full payment and contentation of the said sum of i xvii*l.* vis. viiid. In witness, &c.

In 1669, the Cross was thoroughly repaired, and so highly decorated, and sumptuously embellished with painting, gilding, &c. that it became the admiration of the times; the expence of which amounted to 276*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* Such was the splendid appearance of this Cross, that some old inhabitants have said, it was almost impossible to look at it when the sun shone. From this period it was wholly neglected, and by the gradual operation of the weather mouldered away and decayed until 1771, when the remains of this once splendid pile were wholly taken away.

THE BISHOPRIC*

HAS now the title of Lichfield and Coventry. The See was originally founded at Lichfield, where have sat 30 Bishops and one Archbishop. Peter, elected Bishop of Lichfield, in 1075, removed the See to Chester; hence the Bishops were sometimes called Cestrenses, and sometimes Lichfeldenses. Robert de Limesey, appointed Bishop of Chester in 1085, removed the See, April 18, 1102, to Coventry, where he died August 30, 1117, and was there buried. After his death, this See was vacant four years, until the consecration of Robert Peche, chaplain of King Henry I. March 13, 1121; who, as well as his successors, was called Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. Hugh De Nonant, Archdeacon of Oxford, elected Bishop in 1185, though not consecrated until January 31, 1188, removed the See again to Lichfield, yet not without great opposition from the Monks of Coventry. At length the difference was adjusted by Alexander De Stavenby, consecrated Bishop, April 14, 1224; but, at his death, December 26, 1238, the two Chapters elected William De Raleigh, treasurer of Exeter, for their Bishop; who, being chosen at the same time, by the monks of Norwich, accepted the latter Bishopric. New contentions now arose: the

* See History of Lichfield.

Chapter of Lichfield elected William De Mancetre, their Dean; and that of Coventry, elected Nicholas De Fernham, who refused the appointment on account of the dispute; both parties consented to another election: and, by the persuasion of King Henry III. chose Hugh De Pateshull, treasurer of England. They now agreed to a future regulation:—That the Bishop should be elected both from Coventry and Lichfield; that the precedence in the episcopal title should be given to Coventry; that the two Chapters should alternately choose their Bishop, and that they should form one body, in which the Prior of Coventry should be the principal. It continued thus till the Priory of Coventry was dissolved by King Henry VIII. in the 33d year of whose reign, an Act of Parliament passed, by which it was enacted, that “all leases, grants and other writings, to be made by the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, for the time being, in writing under his seal, of any lands, offices, fees, &c. and confirmed by the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, in writing under their Chapter seal, shall be good in law to bind in succession the successors of the said Bishop: and the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield shall be for ever the entire and sole Chapter of the said Bishopric of Coventry and Lichfield; whereof the Prior and Convent of the dissolved Priory of Coventry were heretofore the moiety, or half-part.”

The Diocese comprehends five hundred and fifty-seven parishes, of which two hundred and fifty

are inappropriate. It contains the whole County of Stafford, except the parishes of Brome and Clent, which are in the Diocese of Worcester; the County of Derby; the larger part of Warwickshire; and nearly the half of Shropshire. It includes the four Archdeaconries of Stafford, Coventry, Derby, and Salop. It is valued in the King's books at 559*l.* 18*s.* 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* and is computed to be worth annually 2,800*l.* The tenths of the Clergy amount to 590*l.* 16*s.* 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.*

In 1524, the temporalities were 667*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*; spiritualities 89*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.*; deducted for reprisals 92*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* The endowment of the Bishopric is now reduced, in consequence of alienation of some of the estates, to 559*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*

In 1534, the estates were thus valued:—Temporalities 667*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* spiritualities 756*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

According to the estimate of the value of Bishoprics in the time of Queen Elizabeth, this was valued at 7,053*l.* and the Deanery at 140*l.*

The rents and revenues of the Bishopric during the undermentioned periods were:—

	£.	s.	d.
7th and 8th of King Edward IV.	984	13	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
21st and 22d of King Henry VII.	1153	10	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
23d and 24th of King Henry VIII.	1247	15	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
26th of King Henry VIII. in the whole	795	17	6
and clear	703	5	2

According to the charter of the 14th of King Charles I. the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield is to act as a Justice of the Peace within the town and liberties of Salop.

The Arms of the See of Lichfield are, *Per pale Gu. and Arg. a cross potent and quadrat formée all countercharged.* Crest, *a mitre.*

The first Archdeacon was Richard Peche, in 1127. The Archdeaconry of Coventry is rated at 45*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* The Archdeaconries had no other revenues belonging to them, than synodals, pensions, and procurations.

July 4, 1781, James Cornwallis, LL. D. third son of Earl Cornwallis, was installed the Bishop of this Diocese. He was educated at Eton, and became Fellow of Merton College, Oxford. He was Chaplain to Marquis Townsend, when he was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; Prebendary of Westminster, Rector of Wrotham, in Kent, and Newington, in Oxfordshire; and in 1775, Dean of Canterbury. In 1791, he succeeded to the Deanery of Windsor, which, in 1794, he exchanged for that of Durham. He is the present Bishop of this Diocese*.

* Before the Restoration, the Bishops of this Diocese signed themselves "Coventry and Lichfield:" the succeeding Bishops followed the example of Hackett, who first changed the style; and Lichfield now takes the precedency of Coventry. Probably the opposite parts taken by the two Cities during the Civil war, may be assigned as the reason of this alteration of the Bishop's title.

EARLS OF COVENTRY*.

THE family of Coventry is descended from John Coventry, son of William Coventry, of this City, who was Sheriff of London, in 1416, and Lord Mayor, in 1425. The family continued in great repute during those troublesome times, and for many years afterwards; when Thomas Coventry, born in the reign of James I. embraced the profession of the law, and was appointed, in 1605, one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas.—He died the same year, leaving issue Thomas and Walter. Thomas was appointed in 1616, to the office of Solicitor General; and in 1620, was raised to the degree of Attorney General. He was constituted, in 1625, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal; and was soon after raised to the dignity of a Baron, by the title of Lord Coventry, of Aylesborough, in the County of Worcester: He died in 1640, leaving issue—1. Thomas *second* Lord Coventry; 2. John, father of Sir John Coventry, of Pitminster, in the County of Somerset, who was made Knight of the Bath, at the coronation of Charles II. and gave occasion, in consequence of an attack made upon his

* See Universal Magazine for 1774, and Encyclopædia Londinensis.

person, to the Act of Parliament for preventing malicious maiming and wounding, commonly called the *Coventry Act*. This Sir John Coventry was Member for the Borough of Weymouth, in Dorsetshire, in the Long Parliament, and in all the others of Charles II.—On December 21, 1670, a violent and inhuman attempt was made upon his person, as the preamble to the Act sets forth, by which persons offending in a similar manner, were in future to suffer death. Bishop Burnet, in the “History of his own Time and other Relations,” give us this account of the matter:—Sir John Coventry was one of those Members of the House of Commons, who struggled much against, what they thought the improper distribution of the public money; and it was then usual for those who had succeeded in rejecting bills of such description, to propose other methods of procuring the requisite supplies. It was proposed, therefore, on the present occasion, to lay a tax on the theatres, which, at that time, were deemed no better than nests of prostitution. This was opposed by the Court. It was contended that the players were the King’s servants, and a part of his pleasure. Upon which Sir John Coventry asked, Whether the King’s pleasure lay among the men or the women that acted? This was carried with great indignation to Court. It was there represented, that this was the first personal reflection which had been cast upon the King. If this were now passed over, more of the same kind

of treatment would follow, and thus such conversation would become fashionable and common. It was, therefore, fit to take such severe notice of this present instance, that no one should dare to talk in that manner for the future. The Duke of York told Bishop Burnet that he had endeavoured to divert the King from the resolution he had taken; which was to send some of the Guards to watch in the streets where Sir John lodged, and to leave a mark upon him. The fact, by bills of indictment, was found to be committed by Sir Thomas Sandys, Knight, Charles Obryan, Esq. Simon Parry, and Miles Reeves, who fled from justice, not daring to abide a legal trial. As Coventry was going home, these persons it seemed, had surrounded him; but he stood up to the wall, snatched the flambeau out of his servant's hands; and with that light in one hand, and his sword in the other, he defended himself so well that he gained great credit for his personal courage. He wounded some of the aggressors, but was soon disarmed; himself having his nose cut to the bone, to teach him, as they said, to remember what respect he owed to the King; they then left him, and returned to the house of the Duke of Monmouth, where Obryan's arm was dressed. This affair was executed by orders from the Duke of Monmouth, for which he was severely censured, because he lived at that time in professions of friendship with Coventry; so that his subjection to the King was not

thought an excuse for directing so vile an attempt on his friend. Coventry's wound was so well dressed by his surgeon, that the scar was scarcely visible.— This vile treatment of one of their Members, excited in the Commons great confusion.— They passed a bill of banishment against the actors, and added a clause that it should not be in the King's power to pardon them, and that in future, death should be the punishment of every similar offence. This decision was often remembered, and much applauded by the violent and angry characters of those times. Thomas, the first Lord Coventry, had also issue—3dly, Henry, who was twice Ambassador to the Court of Stockholm; and was one of the Ambassadors who concluded the peace of Breda, in 1667. He was appointed in 1672, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State; which office he resigned in 1680, and died in 1686. 4. William, reckoned by Bishop Burnet, the best speaker of his time. — From his adherence to the royal cause, he was, at the Restoration made Secretary to the Admiralty. He was sworn also, a Member of the Privy Council, received the honour of Knighthood, and appointed a Commissioner of the Treasury. Thomas, *third* Lord Coventry, son of Thomas second Lord Coventry, was by William III. created Viscount Deerhurst, and Earl of Coventry, in 1697, with remainder to the grandchildren of Walter, brother of Thomas first Lord Coventry. Accordingly, upon the death of

his son Gilbert, *fourth* Earl of Coventry, in 1719, the barony became extinct, and the titles of Viscount Deerhurst and Earl of Coventry, descended to William, the eldest grandson of Walter. William, *fifth* Earl of Coventry, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Allen, of Westminster, Esq. by which lady, (who died in 1738,) he had issue — 1. George-William, sixth Earl of Coventry, and John Bulkeley, who assumed this surname, in pursuance of an Act of Parliament. George-William, *sixth* Earl of Coventry, and Viscount Deerhurst, was born on the 26th of April, 1722, and died September 3, 1809, being 87 years of age. He succeeded his father in the honours and estates of the family, in 1751. He married, first, in 1752, Maria, eldest daughter of John Gunning, Esq. and sister to the Duchess of Hamilton; by this lady he had issue George-William, now seventh Earl of Coventry, Maria-Alicia, and Anne-Margaret; he married, secondly, in 1764, Barbara, daughter of John, tenth Lord St. John of Bletshoe, by whom he had issue two sons, John and Thomas, and a daughter Barbara, who died an infant. His Lordship held the office of Lord-Lieutenant, for the County of Worcester, 58 years; and was also Recorder for the City of Worcester, for the space of 35 years. George-William, now *seventh* Earl of Coventry, was born May 6, 1758, and married, first, Catharine, daughter of Robert Henley, Earl of Northington, Lord High Chancellor of England, who

died in 1799; and secondly the daughter of Sir Abraham Pitches, of Streatham, in the County of Surrey, knight; by which lady he has issue—1. A son, born December 16, 1784; 2. a daughter in 1785, and another daughter in 1786. His Lordship, unfortunately, lost his sight in consequence of a fall from his horse, in 1779.

The family country residence, is Croom Court, 6 miles from Worcester, and 110 from London.—Town-house, Piccadilly.

ARMS.—Sable, a fess ermin, between three crescents, or.—CREST.—On a wreath, a garb, or, and thereon a dunghill-cock perched, gules; his comb, wattles, and legs, as the garb.—SUPPORTERS.—Two eagles, with wings expanded, argent; beaked and membered, or.—MOTTO.—*Candide et constanter.*

WALTER OF COVENTRY.

A Benedictine monk, was born of good parentage at Warwick, and, as it were, dedicated to God from his cradle; he was brought up in piety and literature, and studied philosophy and divinity at Oxford; afterwards he applied himself to reading and writing of history, and might have been ranked among the first men of the age; were not his style somewhat

See Fuller's Worthies, Stevens's Monasticon, &c.

**BIOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT
OF SEVERAL PERSONS,**

*Who formerly were natives of, or who have resided in
Coventry*.*

NATIVES OF COVENTRY,

Who have been Lord Mayors of London.

John Coventry, son of William Coventry, a mercer, in 1425.

John Olney, son of John Olney, a mercer, 1446.

Robert Tate, son of Thomas Tate, a mercer, 1448.

John Tate, son of Thomas Tate, 1496.

WALTER OF COVENTRY,

A Benedictine monk, was born of good parentage at Warwick, and, as it were, dedicated to God from his cradle; he was brought up in piety and literature, and studied philosophy and divinity at Oxford; afterwards he applied himself to reading and writing of history, and might have been ranked among the first men of the age, were not his stile somewhat

* See Fuller's Worthies, Stevens's Monasticon, &c.

too harsh to afford delight to the generality of his readers. Leland, although he no where professes to speak of him, occasionally commends the exact fidelity and excellent order for which his annals are remarkable. Bale says, that he was worthy of an immortal memory. He brought down his history from the first coming of the Britons into this Island to his own time; always following the best authors, such as Geoffrey of Monmouth, Roger Hoveden and Huntington, to which he added many original particulars from other writers. His works are, The Chronicles of the Britons; The Chronicle of the English Saxons; Annals, or a Memorial of England; and Certain Sayings. He flourished in 1217.

VINCENT OF COVENTRY,

WAS born in this City, and bred a Franciscan, in the University of Cambridge. The members of this order, on their first arrival in England, were so totally absorbed in devotion, that they considered learning as a thing beneath their notice. Vincent was the first who applied himself to academical studies, and became a public Professor in Cambridge; his example was shortly afterwards followed by the Carmelites, who instituted public lectures in the same place. He wrote an Exposition of the Mass, a Repetition of the Lessons, &c. and flourished in the year 1250.

WILLIAM MAKLESFIELD,

WAS born, says Bishop Godwin, in the City of Coventry; he was made a Bachelor of Divinity at Paris, Doctor at Oxford, and being a Dominican, he became General of that order. Pope Benedict XI. of the same fraternity, was his familiar friend and acquaintance; and some time before 1340, made him a Cardinal, with the title of Saint Sabine.—Such however, was his fortune, that he died and was buried at London, before the arrival of his Cardinal's cap. This cap being afterwards sent to London with great solemnity, was, with much magnificence affixed to the monument under which he was buried.

WILLIAM OF COVENTRY,

WAS born and bred a Carmelite, in this City.—In his youth he was afflicted with an incurable sprain in his hip, and was commonly called *Claudus Conversus*; namely the Lame Convert. *Conversus*, in the language of those days, denoted a person, who for want of learning, or from deformity of body, was condemned to the servile work of the Monastery, without the expectation of ever becoming a priest. John Pitts says — “*Claudicavit corporis gressus, non virtutis progressu; vitiatus corpore, non viciosus animo.*” Bale says he was very sententious

in his writings, and instances the following particular sentence—"Prodesse Hierosolymam petere et alia invisere loca sacra, sed multo præstare pauperes alere domi;" but this passage does not appear to contain more sententiousness than sense, and at the same time conveys a real truth not unsuitable to that darkened age. His name was never prefixed to his writings, but, according to a custom of the Friars in those days, is to be collected from the capital letters of his several works. He wrote *De Laude Religionis*, *Scutum Carmelitarum*, *De Regula et Confirmatione*, *Præconia Virginis Gloriosæ*, *Annales Bre-viores*, *Elucidarium Fidei*, *Compendium Historiarum*, *Adversus Peccata*, *Carmina Diversa*; and flourished in the year 1360.

JOHN BIRD,

WAS born in the City of Coventry, bred a Carmelite, at Oxford, and became afterwards the head and last provincial of his order. He preached some smart sermons before Henry VIII. against the primacy of the Pope, for which, says Bishop Godwin, he was preferred to be successively Bishop of Ossory, in Ireland, Bangor, in Wales, and Chester, in England. The two last stations he might possibly fill, but perhaps not the former, as John Bale, a contemporary writer, who was also Bishop of Ossory, men-

tions him in no other manner, than as Episcopum Pennecensem, in Ireland. He likewise says—"I have heard that, in the reign of Queen Mary, he returned to the vomit of popery, which my charity will not believe." It appears that in 1533, he lost his Bishopric, in consequence of his marriage; and all that we can learn of his conduct afterwards is in this passage, at the examination of Thomas Hawkes, a martyr:—Bird, then very old, brought Bonner a bottle of wine and a dish of apples as a present, probably for a *ne noceat*; but this is not sufficient evidence to bespeak him a papist. Bonner desired him to take Hawkes into his chamber, and endeavour to convert him from his heretical opinions.—But Fox informs us, that as soon as Bonner had left the room, Bird addressed him in the following words:—"I would to God, I could do you some good; you are a young man, and I would not wish you to go too far, but to learn of the elders to bear somewhat." This circumstance amounts to nothing more than a passive compliance, and is not sufficient evidence to procure him the title of a thorough-bred papist, particularly as John Pitts omits his name in the catalogue of English writers, which he would not have done, had he any assurance that he had been a radical Romanist. Nothing more is known of him, than that he was a little man, and had a pearl in his eyes: dying in the year 1556, he was buried at Chester.

JOHN GRANT,

WAS one of the conspirators, concerned in the Gunpowder Plot, and resident at Coventry; he, in company with several other violent Catholics, broke open a stable, and carried off seven or eight horses belonging to the neighbouring Gentlemen, with which assistance (thinking the explosion had taken place) he intended to obtain possession of the Princess Elizabeth, who was then on a visit at Lord Harrington's, in Warwickshire, but being frustrated in this scheme, he was taken, brought to trial, and executed with Sir Everard Digby, Robert Winter, and Thomas Bates, January 30, 1606, at the West end of St. Paul's Church, London.

PHILEMON HOLLAND,

WHERE this person was born is unknown; he was bred a Doctor of Physic at Trinity College, in Cambridge, and fixed himself in Coventry, as a Schoolmaster and Physician. He was the translator-general of his age; he cloathed so many of the ancient historians in an English dress, that they alone, it has been said, would make a tolerable library. A wag wrote the following distich on his labours:—

Philemon, with translations doth so fill us,
He will not let Suetonius be *Tranquillus*.

Many of his books he wrote with one pen, which he thus pleasantly versifies:—

With one sole pen I wrote this book,
Made of a grey-goose quill;
A pen it was when I it took,
And a pen I leave it still.

This monumental pen he kept by him in good preservation; it seems he leaned very *lightly* on its nib, though still with sufficient *weight*; yet not slightly but solidly performing what he undertook. He acquired great fame by his translation of Camden's *Britannia*, to which he made many excellent additions, not found in the Latin; this was done in the life-time of Camden, and no doubt by his desire and assistance. This eminent Translator was at length *translated* to a better life, in the year 1636, at the advanced age of 85. His monumental inscription, written by himself, is still legible in Trinity Church, see page 156.

JAMES CRANFORD,

WAS born at Coventry (where his father was a divine and schoolmaster of great note), bred in Oxford, beneficed in Northamptonshire, and afterwards removed to St. Christopher's, in London. He was an excellent preacher, and thoroughly understood the learned languages; a subtle disputant, orthodox

in his judgment, well acquainted with the Fathers, and familiar with the modern Divines. He was a man of great humility, his moderation encreased with his age, his charity equally his moderation, and he was respected by all descriptions of persons. He had a number of valuable books entirely at his command, and could not be said to lose himself in his own library. Sympathising in the sufferings and calamities of the Church and State, he died, rather infirm than old, in the year 1657.

HUMPHREY WANLEY*,

SON of Nathaniel Wanley, Vicar of Trinity Church, Coventry, was born March 21, 1671-2. What time he could spare from the handicraft trade to which his father put him, he employed in turning over old MSS. and copying the various hands, by which he acquired an uncommon faculty of distinguishing their dates. Dr. Lloyd, his diocesan, sent him to St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, of which Dr. Mills was then Principal, whom he greatly assisted in his collations of the New Testament; but he afterwards removed, by Dr. Chartlet's advice, to University College. Mr. Nelson who had endeavoured to procure for Mr. Wanley, the office of Librarian to the Cottonian Library, introduced him to the office of Secretary to the Society for propagating Christian

* See Anecdotes of Bowyer.

Knowledge. He was soon after employed in arranging the valuable collections of Robert Earl of Oxford, with the appointment of Librarian to his Lordship. In this employ he gave such particular satisfaction, that he was allowed an handsome pension by Lord Harley, the Earl's eldest son, and successor in the title, who retained him as Librarian till his death. (Mr. Wanley's Harleian Journal is preserved in the Earl of Shelburne's Library, and contains many remarkable entries.) Mr. Wanley died July 6, 1726. There is an original picture of him in the Bodleian Library, by Hill, from which a mezzotinto print was scraped by Smith, in 1718.—Another half-length, sitting, in the room of the Society of Antiquaries. When admitted to the Bodleian Library, he made large extracts from the MSS. and promised a Supplement to Hyde's Catalogue of the printed books, which Hearne completed (and which was published by Robert Fysher, B. M. in 1738). He intended a Treatise on the various characters of MSS. with specimens. Upon leaving Oxford, he travelled over the kingdom in search of Anglo-Saxon MSS. at Dr. Hickes's desire and drew up the Catalogue of them in his Thesaurus. Mr. Bagford mentions some design of his relating to a Saxon Bible.

Mr. W. intended publishing some of our ancient Historians, on a plan worthy his skill in English History and Antiquities. He had actually shewn Mr. Bowyer, the printer "*Chronicon Dunstapliæ*,"

transcribed from the Cottonian MS. by himself, "Benedicti Petroburgensis Abbatis Chronicon," transcribed also from the Cottonian MS. by himself, and collated with the other, and "Annals de Lanescroft," transcribed by him from the Cottonian MS. for Mr. Elphinstone. His plan was to have large notes, illustrating the whole, with charters, seals, monuments, epitaphs, buildings, and as much other unprinted matter, as would fall probably in his way, always pertinent to the subject, not forgetting an Index Nominum Propriorum et Materialium, and a Glossary. His patron in this undertaking was Lord Viscount Weymouth, who gave him 100*l*. promising a similar sum when the above works were published as a reward for his dedication; and also to take 100 of the printed copies. At the desire of his patron, who unwilling to delay the publication for the collecting of notes, &c. (which he urged might be printed afterwards in a separate volume) ordered the publication of the bare text; he agreed with Mr. Bowyer, about the paper, type, &c. and articles were about to be entered into when the noble peer died, without having by will, or otherwise, provided for the work; in consequence, the Printer and Bookseller retracted and nothing further was done. He gave to the Free School in Coventry several books of value.

Mr. Wanley was buried in the Parish Church of

St. Mary-le-bonne. The following inscription is on his tomb-stone:—

Here lyes

Mr. Humphrey Wanley,

Library Keeper to the Right Honourable

Robert and Edward, Earls of Oxford, &c.

Who died the 6th day of July, MDCCXXVI.

In the 55th year of his age.

JOHN TIPPER,

WAS chosen Master of the Bablake Boys, in this City, April 8, 1699, in the room of Richard Butler, who was very old and infirm; the salary allowed him was 20*l.* per annum, with fuel and other perquisites, out of which he was to pay Butler an annual sum of 10*l.* during his life. Tipper first published an Almanack, entitled the Ladies Diary, in 1704, and continued it until 1713, when he died; he proposed also to compile a History of Coventry, but died before it was compleated. He wrote, an entertainment, which was performed by the Bablake Blue-coat Boys before the Magistrates and other persons, in the Mayor's Parlour, on Thursday, June 27, 1706, being the Thanksgiving-day for our wonderful victories and success in Flanders and Spain. We are enabled to lay the following specimen of this performance before our readers:—

*The following, by way of Prologue, was spoken by
one of the boys:—*

MAY we poor boys have liberty to sing
The triumphs of great Anne—our glorious Queen?
Must we withdraw? or may the rest come in?

Leave being granted, they all enter, and the same
boy proceeds thus:—

Begin your songs, your voices raise,
To sing Queen Anne's immortal praise;
Join every one in tongue and heart,
To bear with us an equal part.

Then was sung the following lines by all the boys:—

Already Fate has writ her name
Foremost in the rolls of fame;
Her praise all Europe loudly sings,
Greatest of women! best of Queens!

Then the same boy goes on:—

May Heaven, the surest guardian of the fair,
Our Queen defend, who best deserves its care;
Against her grandeur all designs destroy,
And equal to her wishes be her joy:
And, if Heav'n bless, who can her arms withstand,
Her floating fleets by sea, her conquering troops by land.
Where'er great Marlborough casts his rapid eye,
Whether o'er Flanders, or o'er Germany,
His numerous foes are forc'd to run or die.
But give us leave distinctly to display
The glorious subject of this happy day.

The following was sung by all the boys:—

To arms, heroic Prince, to arms!
 Glory, like love, has powerful charms;
 Bid trumpets sound, and nothing name
 But battles, conquests, triumphs, fame.

Then another boy proceeded thus:—

The gloomy throng look'd terrible from far,
 Disclosing slow the horrid face of war;
 The thick battalions move in dreadful form,
 As low'ring clouds precede the coming storm;
 Advancing in a line they couch their spears;
 A small but dreadful interval appears;
 Vast sheets of flame and pitchy clouds arise,
 And burning vomit spouts against the skies;
 Tempests of fire th' astonish'd Heavens annoy,
 Fierce as the storms that from the clouds destroy:
 Now dying groans are heard, the fields are strew'd
 With fallen bodies, and are drunk with blood.
 Arms, heroes, men, on heaps together lie,
 Confus'd the fight, but more confus'd the cry:
 The earth with streaming blood is crimson dy'd,
 And death with horror, sought on ev'ry side.

Then were the following lines sung by all the boys:

Who can from joy refrain? this gay,
 This pleasing, shining, wond'rous day!

Another boy then proceeded as follows:—

When first this dreadful news to France was brought,
 What strange alarms in Lewis' mind it wrought;
 Not the last trumpet could him more surprize,
 That summons drowsy mortals to arise;

Restless his feet, distracted was his walk;
 Mad were his motions, and confus'd his talk;
 His troubled looks reveal his inward wound,
 And storms of fury on his forehead frown'd.
 Confusion on his fainting vitals hung,
 And fault'ring accents flutter'd on his tongue.

Then was sung by all the boys in a trumpet tune:—

Let the ag'd and the young, let the loose and severe,
 Express their true joy, let no discord be here;
 Let the hautboys and viols, and shrill trumpets sound,
 And the arch of high Heaven the clangour resound.

Then another boy repeated as follows:—

Great Marlborough has gain'd immortal fame;
 He Cæsar-like, came, saw, and overcame.
 The beaten French on every side give way,
 And numerous troops his summons soon obey.

Then was sung as before—“*Let the ag'd.*”

Lastly, the verses ensuing, were sung by another boy:

O, mighty Anne!
 To speak thy worth, to celebrate thy praise,
 Is work for laureats.—
 Yet in few words our humble Muse will try;
 And what in words we want, our wishes shall supply.
 Great is our Queen in birth; her lineage springs
 From a long race of rightful British Kings.
 Devout is she, as holy hermits are,
 Who share their time 'twixt extasie and pray'r;
 Modest as infant roses in their bloom,
 Who, in a blush, their fragrant life consume;
 So chaste, the dead themselves are only more;—
 So pure, could virtue in a shape appear,
 'Twould choose to have no other form than her.

May earth give lasting joy to all her years,
 And Heaven be still propitious to her pray'rs;
 And may a chain of happy days arise,
 Days like to this, to sing her victories.
 And e'er her mighty doom is seal'd by Fate,
 May Death a length of years behind her wait:
 And grant, O Heavens (to fill up all our store
 Of happiness)! O grant one blessing more:
 Give us an heir from her own loins to come,
 Who may succeed her on Great Britain's throne.
 To close up all, our voices let us raise,
 For these our hopes, for all such happy days
 As this! and sing aloud our Great Creator's praise.

All concluded with an Anthem, sung in three parts.

APPENDIX.

THE CHARTER HOUSE.

WITHIN the precincts of Coventry, on the South-eastern side of the City, formerly stood a Monastery belonging to the Carthusian monks.^b

This order sprung from one Bruno, a native of Cologne, in Germany, who was a learned man, and a Professor of Philosophy in the University of Paris. This person, with six others, fixed their residence at a place called *Carthuse*, which was a wild and mountainous part of the diocese of Grenoble, in 1080.— Here Bruno erected a Monastery, instituting the most severe and strict rules, to be observed by himself and his associates. They were enjoined to wear hair shirts, never to eat flesh, and on Fridays, only bread and water; they were required to live apart in particular cells, to which their food was brought; festival days only excepted, when they were all permitted to dine together, but not suffered to converse but at stated times; none were permitted to go out

of the Monastery except the Superior and Procurator, and they only to attend to the affairs of the House. Their dress was a white loose coat, with a cowl of the same colour, over which they occasionally threw a black habit; they were shaven in a manner similar to the Benedictines. Their cells were built with a low roof, and contained three or four rooms on the ground floor; behind which was a little garden, encircled by a high wall; into these cells the lay brethren introduced their food, through a little door in the wall, which was locked, the key of which was kept by the person who served them. At the hours of public prayers they met in the choir. No women were permitted to enter the liberties of the Monastery; nor was any man allowed to converse with the monks, except by permission of the Superior. The lay brethren were not shaven; their hair was, however, cut short and round; their dress was the same with the monks, except the scapular, which reached a little below the middle, and was girded close to their loins.^b

This order was introduced into England, by King Henry II. in the year 1181, who founded a Monastery for them at Witham, in Somersetshire, of which Hugh Bishop of Lincoln was the first Prior.^b

The religious House now to be described, arose from the pious intentions of William Lord Zouch, of Harringworth, in Northamptonshire; who obtain-

ing, in 1381, fourteen acres of land, in this place, from Sir Baldwyn Frevile, the elder, determined on that spot to erect a Monastery of Carthusians, and endow it with ample revenues. Death, however, prevented the execution of his purpose; but, in his last illness, he left 60*l.* per annum towards any future establishment.^a

The design was speedily completed by various pious persons. Richard Luff, a Mayor of Coventry, and John Botoner, a fellow-citizen, bestowed 400 marks on the church, choir, cloisters, and three cells on the East side next to the Chapter House, and for the purpose of excavating seven ponds for water. John Holmeton, of Sleaford, gave 180*l.* towards the structure of the choir; and with 20*l.* procured from the sale of goods of William Tilney, whose executor he was, he built the cell at the West corner of the cloister; the fourth cell on the East side was built by Margery Tilney, of Newark, who, for that purpose (in addition to a Commentary upon Isaiah and Jeremiah), bestowed 20*l.*; the fifth, the farthest on the East side, was erected by Lady Margery Tilney, of Rotson, who gave 10*l.* also to the building of the East window of the choir; the sixth, by John Bokingham, Bishop of Lincoln; the seventh, by Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick; the eighth, viz. the third on the South side, was built with 20*l.* given as a legacy by Adam Botoner, Citizen of Coventry; the

ninth, by Sir Nigel Loryng, Knt. by the advice of Robert Braybrook, Bishop of London; the tenth, being the first in the West corner, out of the property of William Tilney before-mentioned; the eleventh, by John Morton, Canon of Lichfield—no further traces of this transaction can now be discovered. “Thus much was preserved (says Dugdale) by my worthy friend Mr. John Langley, from two leaves of parchment written in the time of Richard II. being the fragment of a MS. redeemed by him from utterly perishing, having been by some ignorant person made the cover of a school-boy’s book.”

Richard II. on his return from Scotland, in 1385, assumed the honour of being the founder of this House; and, at the instance of his Queen, Anne, laid the first stone of the church with his own hands, declaring, in the presence of his Nobility, and of the Mayor and Citizens of Coventry, that he would bring it to perfection. After this it received considerable endowments, and at the Dissolution was found, according to Dugdale, to be possessed of 131*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* above all reprises.^a

The Prior, John Bochart, made an easy surrender of the House, by an instrument, dated January 16, 1538, subscribed by eight monks, including the Prior, who, probably, was induced to this sacrifice by the consideration of the great pension of 40*l.* a year.^a

Little of the ancient building now remains. The wall of the precinct is still standing; and in the garden are the marks of many small doors, which were the entrances into the cells of their former austere inhabitants. It is now the property of E. Inge, Esq.^a

“AND for also myche as hit is right nessesarie and full needful to reduce matters into mynde that afore tyme ben don, in eachung stody and labur in such cases that hereafter shal lyke to falle: The Mayre hathete to compyle, as for the Kynges coming into this Cite, for his being within this Cite, and also of his rideng out of this Cite, with all the honours the more why he hadde, as his aperteth in writeng next after here following.

“Receyvinge the Kyng.

“Memorand, that the xxi day of September, the yere of our Sovereign Lorde alre rehersed, the Kyng our Sovereign Lord cam fro Lyncester toward Coventre, the Mayre being thence, that is to say, Ric. Boys, and his worthy bedeman, arrayed in skarle, and all the commonalte cladde in grene gownes and redde hodes, in Haselwode, beyond the brode ok, on horsbak, attended the comyng of our Sovereign Lorde; and also, some as they hadden syght of our

* From the Last Book belonging to the Corporation.

† 29th Henry VI.

VISIT
OF HENRY VI. TO COVENTRY, IN 1450*.

“ AND for also myche as hit is right nesesarie and full nedeful to reduse maters into mynde that afore tyme ben don, in eschueng stody and labur in suche cases that herafter arn lyke to falle: The Meyre hathe lete to compyle, as for the Kynges comeing into this Cite, for his beeng withein this Cite, and also of his rideng out of this Cite, withe all the demene the mene whyle hadde, as hit apereth in writeng next after here foloweng.

“ Receavinge the Kinge.

“ Memorand’ that the xxi day of September, the yere of oure Soveren Lorde afore rehersed†, the Kyng our Soveren Lord cam fro Leycester toward Coventre, the Meyre beeng thenne, that is to sey, Ric. Boys, and his wurthy bredurn, arayed in skarlet, and all the comonaltie cladde in grene gownes and redde hodes, in Haselwode, beyonde the brode oke, on horsbak, attended the comyng of our Soveren Lorde; and also, sone as they hadden syght of our

* From the Leet Book belonging to the Corporation.

† 29th Henry VI.

Soveren Lordes presens, the Mayre and hys peeres lyghten on fote, mekely thries kneleng on ther knees, did unto our Soveren Lorde ther due obeysaunce; the Mayre seying to hym thes wordes: "Most highest and gracious Kyng, ye arn welcom to your true liege menne withe all our hertes." Atte whiche the Mayre, be avyse of counsell, hadde no mase in his honde; but hys serjant attendeng apon the Meyre, the wordes afore rehersed sayde, put the mase in the Mayres honde; and the Mayre, kysseng the mase, offurd hit to the Kyng; the Kyng, tarieng and herkeneng the Meyres speche in faverabull wyse, seyde thes wordes: "Well seyde, Sir Meyre, take your hors." The Meyre then rode forthe afore the Kyng, bereng his mase in his honde, withe the knyght constabull next afore the Kynges swerde, the bayles of this Cite rideng afore the Meyre withe ther mases in ther hondes, makeng way and rome for the Kynges comeng, and so they ridon afore the Kyng till the Kyng come to the utter yate of the Priory. The Kyng then forthewithe send for the Meyre and his bredurn, be a knyght, to come to his p'sence, and to speke with hym in his chambur. And the Meyre and his peres, accordeng to the Kynges comaundement, com into his chambur, and thries ther knelleng didde ther obeysaunse. Thomas Lytelton, then Recordur, seyde unto the Kynge suche wordes as was to his thynkyng most plesaunt; our Soveren Lorde seyeng agayne thes wordes:

“Sirs, I thank you of youre goode rule and demene, and in spesiall for your goode rule the last yere past, for the best ruled pepull thenne withein my reame; and also I thank you for the p’sent that ye nowe gave to us.” The whiche p’sent was a tonne wyne and xx’tie grete fat oxen. The Kyng then moreover gaf hem in comaundement to govern well hys Cite, and to see his pese be well kepte, as hit hath byn aforetyme, seying thenne to hem, “he wulde be ther goode lorde.” And so the Meyre and his peres departed. The Kyng, then abydeng stille in the seide Priory, apon Mich’as evon sende the clerke of his closet to the Church of Sent Michel to make redy ther hys clossette, seyeng that the Kynge on Mich’as day wolde go on p’cession, and also her there hygh masse. The Meyre and his counsell, remembreng hem in this mater, specially avysed hem to pray the Byshoppe of Wynchester to say hygh masse afore the Kynge. The Byshoppe so to do agreede withe alle hys herte; and, agayne the Kynges comeng to Sent Michel Church, the Meyre and his peres, cladde in skarlet gownes withe ther clokes, and all odur in ther skarlet gownes, wenton unto the Kynges chambur durre, ther abydeng the Kynges comeng. The Meyre then and his peres, doeng to the Kyng due obeysaunse when he com fro’ his chambur, toke his mase and bere it afore the Kyng, all his seid bredurn goeng afore the Meyre till he com to Sent Michels, and brought the Kyng to

his closette, Then the seyde Byshoppe, in his pontificals arayede, withe all the prestes and clerkes of the seyde Church and of Bablake, withe copes apareld, wenton in p'cession abowte the churchyard; the Kyng devowtely, withe many odur lordes, followed the seyd p'cession bare-hedded, cladde in a gowne of golde tissu, furred with a furre of marturn sabull; the Meyre bereng the mase afore the Kyng as he didde afore, till he com agayne to his closette. Att the whyche masse when the Kyng had offerd, and his lordes also, he sende the lorde Bemond', his chamburlen, to the Meyre, seyeng to him, "hit is the Kynges wille that ye and your bredurn com and offer;" and so they didde; and when masse was don, the Meyre and his peres brought on the Kyng to his chambur in lyke wyse as they fet hym, save only that the Meyre with his mase went afore the Kyng till he com withe in his chambur, his seyde bredurn abydeng atte the chambur durre till the Meyre cam ageyne. And, at evesong tyme the same day, the Kyng, be ii for hys body and ii yomen of the Crowne, sende the seyde gowne and furre that he were when he went in p'cession, and gaf hit frely to God and to Sent Michell, insomuch that non of the that broughte the gowne wolde take no reward in no wyse; and, after all thys done, on the Tuesday next after the fest of Sent Michell then next sueng, the Kyng, p'posyng to remove, toke his hors and rode forthe toward Kyllengworthe, the

Meire and his peres, & the cominaltie, in lyke wyse as they ridon withe the Kyng into the town, so in the same wyse they ridon withe the Kyng towards Kyllengworthe, till they com on to a plase beyonde Astill Grove, agayne a brode lane the ledethe to Canley; and then there ye Kyng, willeng to speke withe the Meyre and his bredurn, seyde to hem thes wordes: "Sirs, I thank you of your good rule and demene at this tyme, and for goode rule among you afore hadde, and in speciall for your goode rule of the yere last past; and, whereas ye ben now *Baylies*, we wille that ye be hereafter *Sherifes*; and this we graunt to you of owr own fre wille, and of no spesiall desire. Moreover we charge you withe our pese among you to be kepte, and that ye suffer no ryotts, conventiculls, ne congregacions of lewde pepull, among you: And also that suffer no lordes lyvereyes, knyghtes, ne squyers, to be reseyved of no man witheyn you, for hit is agayne our statutes; and also that ye obey my comaundements. And yif ye be thus ruled, we wille be your goode lorde." And, this don, the Meyre and hys bredurn takeng ther leve of the Kyng; so then departed, and ridon to Coventre agayne.—
Godde save the Kyng."

DEFENCE OF THE CITY*.

1449.—RICHARD SHARP, Mayor.

“ALSO, hit is ordeyned at ye p’sent lete, at the request & desyr of ye Chamb’leyns, that ther shuld be ordeyned & named in ev’y warde, iiij p’sones, which shuld have ye kepyng & guydyng of ye town yats, & they iiij in ev’y ward to chese on p’son, which shuld have ye kepyng of ye keyes of ev’y yate, & he to open ye yate ev’y mornyng, & to lok hit at ix of ye klok in the nyght, and they yt kept ye keyes of ye Newe-yate, Spon-strete-yate, Byshop-yate, & Frere-yate, & Gosford-yate, to have yerly for ther labour iiij s. a pece; and they yt kept ye keyes of all ye other yates, to have i s. a pece, and to be paide be the Chamb’leyns for ye tyme beyng.”

“1450.—Hit is ordeyned (by the Mayor, RICHARD BOYS, and 89 worthy men of the City as-

* Extracted from the Leet Book belonging to the Corporation.

In 1448, the different Companies of the City enrolled 603 men for its defence, who were provided with “683 jakkes, or harburjons, salettes, bowes, arrowes,” &c.

sembled in St. Mary's Hall) for the wele of the Cite, that ye town dyches shullon be clansed, and that to do, every howseholder of this Cite shall fynde a man, howse be howse, in lykewyse as the wache gothe, excepte that every wurthy man shal be charged to kepe ther parte also wel as odor.

“ Also, they ordeyned, that portooles shall be made at ev'y yate of this Cite, ther as the yate is made to have a portooles, and this to be don be the Chamburleyens of this Cite, atte Cite cost. Also, they ordeyned, that ther shuld be made Spayers withein the water of Shirburn, to holde up the water yif nede requyre, and to lat ye water passe all odor tymes, and thys also to be don be the Chamburlens on the Cite coste.

“ Also, that ther shuld be dyvers Cheynes* made of iron, & hanked in dyvers places withein this Cite, for to hang ourthewarde dyvers lane endes, as hit now apereth where; and thys also to be don be over syht of the Meyr and his Councell.

“ Also, that ther shuld be made a posturne at the over partie of the Spon-strete, the which postern

* These chains were hung up at the ends of West-Orchard, Broad-gate, Greyfriars-lane, Pepper-lane, Little Park-street, Hay-lane, Bayley-lane, Much Park-street, and Dead-lane. —Four pieces of ordnance were likewise purchased from Bristol, for the defence of the City, which, with the ammunition, &c. were placed in a tower, in Bablake-gate. The two large ones, called the serpentines, cost 6*l*. 5*s*. 7*d*.

shall be made atte costes of the seyde Spon-strete, that is to say, fro Bablake-yat upwards into the subarbs."

JAN. 22, 1642.—CHRISTOPHER DAVENPORT, Mayor*.

"AGREED, for the better defence of the Citie, some great pieces of ordnance be ordered from Bristol or elsewhere, & that every householder & person of ability of this Cite, shall find & provide himself with such a proportion of musketts compleatly furnished, so that this Citie maie have in a reddynes, upon any suddaine occasion, at least five hundred musketts for its defence & safeguard. To which end, there shall likewise be provided, with what convenient speed maie be, at the least, twentie musketts for this Corporation, to be in a readines in the armorie of the Citie, over & above the musketts the Citie now hath.

"An order touching Watch and Ward.

"This House taking into consideration the present troubles & dangerous times, have by the consent of the Com'on Councell of this Citie, thought fit and so order'd, that theire orders touching watch & ward in this Citie shall be from hence forth duly kept and perform'd, and that the delinquents shalbe severely censured & punished, as enemys to the state.

"1st. That the watch shall everie night be set

* Extracted from the Common Council Book belonging to the Corporation.

forth by the Alderman of the ward, or his deputie, at 9 of the clock, and the watchmen to watch from that time till 5 of the clock next morning.

“ 2d. That no common or ordinarie watchmen be accepted or allowed of in theise troublesome times, but that the watch be perform'd by able men both of estate & persons.

“ 3d. That one Common Councill man, and one other of this Citie that hath been Chamberlain or Warden, do duly oversee and observe the watch in this Citie, in the severall wards & guards thereof.

“ 4th. That the Barr-gates be chained up everie night till 4 of the clock in the next morning, by the Alderman of that ward, or by his deputie or a constable there.

“ 5th. That there be 17 men everie night employed in that watch to be disposed of thus—3 at Spon-gate, 2 to walk in Spon-street, 3 at New-gate, 3 at Gosford-gate, 2 at Greyfriars-gate, 2 at Bishop-gate; theise 5 gates to be still attended with those watchmen, & the other 7 Gates to be shut up everie night, and that 2 of those watchmen do everie night attend the Common Councill men to walk the rounds.

“ 6th. The Gate at Crow-lane end to be shut up everie night.

“ 7th. That speciall order be taken for the shutting

up of the posterns gates, and the portcullis places in ye town-wall, that no damage happens to this Citie.

“ Directions for the Common Councill men, & other the Chamberlains and Wardens, touching the Watch agreed upon to be had & kept in this Citie.

“ 1st. That they respectively do meete at the Maiors P’ler, in Cross Cheping, at 9 of the clock, and that each of them as his turn cometh, viz. that one Com’on Councill man, one other person that hath been Chamberlain or Warden, and two Constables, and two Watchmen do everie night walk the round of this Citie, to observe that the watch do perform their dutie, and to see that no danger or disorder be had in this Citie, and such walking the round to continue till 5 of the clock the next morning.

“ 2d. That they see & observe that the gates & posterns appointed to be shut, be so ordered, & kept in safetie.

“ 3d. That the Com’on Councill men so walking the round, be ready the next morning to take in the weapons at the P’lor, that were overnight deliver’d to them, and that they, so watching, do deliver to the Sheriffs notice where the watch ended, to the end that, from time to time, the Sheriffs maie appoint, who by turne are next to supply that place of trust & care.

“ 4th. That this watch shall begin on Mondaie

night the 24th of January, 1642, in Gosford-street ward, and 2 of the Constables there to watch the first night, and the next night one of that ward, and one of Much Park-street ward, till the whole Citie in each ward has perform'd that service.

" 5th. That those 2 Constables that last watched are still, from time to time, not only to give timely notice to the next 2 Constables who are by turn to watch, but also notice to all other the inhabitants, who are by turne to watch, till each person in the ward have perform'd his & her dutie therein."

LIBEL,

Printed at the Whitefriars, Coventry.*

“GREAT numbers of scurrilous pamphlets, were wrote, printed, and dispersed, on both sides, concerning ecclesiastical discipline, and never ending cavils and disputes about rites and ceremonies, in a snarling and ridiculous manner; and the public printing presses being shut against the puritans, some of them purchased a private one. It was first set up at Mousley, near Kingston, in Surrey, thence conveyed to Fawsley in Northamptonshire, thence to Norton, and afterwards to Coventry; from Coventry to Woolston, in Warwickshire, and from thence to Manchester; discovered by Henry Earl of Derby, in the printing *More Work for the Cooper*. (See Fuller’s Church History, lib. ix, p. 194.) It was often visited by the High Commissioner’s messengers, who seized what books they found of their’s, &c. Strype, in the life of Archbishop Whitgift, p. 314, says, that Sir Richard Knightley, and Sir — Wigston, who had entertained the press, together with the printer, and Humphrey Newman, the dis-

* Extracted from Ames’s Typographical Antiquities.

perser, were deeply fined in the Star-chamber; and others put to death. See more in Camb. Annals of Queen Elizabeth. Dr. H. Sampson, in his MS. paper of lives, in the account of the Ministers of Coventry since the reformation, divided into decads—in decad the 5th, from 1580 to 1590, has the following passage: Another matter, that procured an ill aspect upon the town, was the printing of Martin Marprelate, junior, in it; which though it was done without the knowledge or approbation of any in the town, yet the place and the people was upon this mere occasion reflected on. The story was thus: Mr. Hales, of the White Friaers, had now his house stood empty, whilst himself lived elsewhere. Mr. Knightley, his cousin, took that opportunity to borrow his house for a diversisement of a month or two, or other pretence; which when it was granted, Mr. Knightly privately conveyed thither the printing press and letters, and in a back chamber, which is well remembered and marked to this day, the book was printed off. It cannot be denied, but that this house stands remote from neighbours, being uninhabited at that time, and that chamber, removed from the housekeeper's usual residence, was well chosen for this purpose. But it was discovered afterwards, I suppose, by the printers, who being taken in Lancashire, confessed other places, where the ambulatory press had been, and the persons that employed them, sufficiently to Mr. Hales's cost. First for the fact of lending his house,

though altogether ignorant of the use it should be put to, yet upon suspicion of his guilt, he was fined 1500*l.* and afterwards compounded with the Queen, and actually paid 500*l.* Yet after all this, the officers not having registered the composition and payment of the money, his grandson, Mr. John Hales, in King James's days, was called on again to pay the fine; which he had certainly done, if after many days solicitous seeking the discharge in vain, he had not found it at last very accidentally among papers, that were destined to waste or burning."

INUNDATION IN COVENTRY*.

“THE Cittie of Coventrie is situated upon the mount or rysing of a small hill, uppon which place there arose a most strange and dreadfull sodaine inundation, the manner whereof followeth, word for word, as I receiyed it under the Seale of the Cittie, and signed by Henrie Sewell, Maior of Coventry. ‘ Know ye, that we aswel of our owne knowledge, as of the credible report of our honest neighbours, Cittizens of Coventry, who have sustayned great losses lately by a sudden floud, which unexpected and suddenly came first into the Suburbes of the Cittie, from whence or where the rayne that caused that sodaine floud came, we know not, but uppon Fryday morning, being the 17th of Aprill, 1607, about seaven of the clocke, no man suspected any such floud to be, and suddenly betweene eyght and nine of the clock that morning, there was a great floud comming towards the Cittie, whereupon some seeing it come halfe a myle of, and made it knowne unto some Cittizens to make present hast to save some of their goods, but the water came so abundantly, like the surges of the Sea, into the Suburbes and Cittie, that it rose within one

* See Stowe's Chronicles.

houre in some places, three yards, and better in height, more then it was that morning, and overflowed divers Medowes, and grounds, & entred through the streetes and houses of the Inhabitantes that dwelt neere the river, to the number of two hundreth, fiftie, and seven houses, besides worke houses, and other houses of office, neere the river, to the great hurt of Tanners, Whit-tawers, Dyers, Bakers, and Bruers, not onely in their housholde goods, but in carrying away many things, to their great losse and damage. In witnesse wherof, we have hereunto put the common seale of the Cittie, for such like causes, ordayned the xvij of May, 1607. HENRY SEWELL, Maior.' Thus much, at my request, it pleased the Maior and Aldermen to certifie, because this sudden floud was most strange and admirable, considering that neyther Sea, nor any great ryver commeth neere the Cittie, but onely a very small brooke but halfe a yard deepe at most, over which at all times of the year, a man may eyther stryde or leape over it; neyther was there over-night any such great rayne, as might rayse so great and violent waters: onely there happened upon Thursday at night, great rayne and thunder, being but such as they hadde often heard and seene, after which there never followed any inundation; this fierce and unheard of floud came with unusall fury and violence, and when it was risen to his full height, it stayed so for the space of 3 howers, and then beyond all expectation, and with as great admiration, it vanished as it

encreased, being in comming and going of equall wonder, for it stayed their as long time when it was risen, as it did in rising and falling, being in the growing, staying, and decreasing, aboute foure howers and a halfe; if this had happened in the night, most of the Citty had perished, but at this time their was no living soule drowned, there were aboundance of white Snails that came downe with the waters, and there were a great number crept up into willow trees in clusters, like ropes of onions, and the like were seene in mens houses, and were supposed to be so assembled before the comming of the waters, but not observed untill the waters were come."

ALL-SAINTS DAY*.

“THE Ceremony and Order on the All Saints Day, at the taking the Mayor’s Oath.

“First, in the morning, the Mayor attended by the Livery and Company, the Sheriffs, Coroner, Chamberlains, and Wardens, for his year being, and Serjeants come to the Church of St. Michael, and staying there till the first lesson of morning prayer be begun to be read, then they go to St. Mary’s Hall, and after that the Livery and other officers go and fetch the new Mayor to the Hall (the old Mayor, Sheriffs, Chamberlains, and Wardens, staying at St. Mary’s Hall), after their coming together and proceeding to the upper end of the Hall, the old Mayor goeth to the Aldermen, and giveth them thanks for their love and assistance for the year past, and to all the officers, as old Sheriffs, Coroner, Chamberlains, Wardens, Sword and Mace Bearers, and other Serjeants, and then if he be disposed, goeth to the square table, standing there, and maketh his speech to the people. After that, the Coroner taketh his oath, and then puts on his hat and sits down, and giveth the

* From a MS. written by Mr. Humphrey Burton, in 1637.

Mayor his oath, and then the old Mayor giveth the new Mayor the right-hand place; and then the Officer layeth three cushions on the ground tri-angular, then both the Mayors kneel down, and the Sword Bearer having the sword in his hand in the scabbard, with the great hat of maintenance on his head, maketh an obeysance, kneeleth down, and kisseth the sword, and giveth it to the old Mayor, who also kisseth it, and giveth it to the new Mayor, who kisseth it and returns it to the Sword Bearer; the Sword Bearer then takes off his hat of maintenance and kisseth it, and delivers it to the old Mayor; who kisseth it and delivers it to the new Mayor, who also kisseth it and delivers it again to the Sword Bearer; then the Sword Bearer riseth up, making obeysance, and the great Mace Bearer, having the great mace on his shoulder, kneels down (both the Mayors still kneeling), and the new Mayor having the right-hand place, and then the great Mace Bearer kisseth the great mace, and delivers it to the old Mayor, who also kisseth it, and delivers it to the new Mayor who likewise kisseth it and delivers it to the great Mace Bearer, again, who then riseth up; then the old Mayor giveth to the new Mayor the City Seals of Statutes, and the Elephant and Castle, and the old Ring, and then both Mayors rise up and sit on the bench (the new Mayor having the right-hand place); then the Sheriffs take their oaths; then the Chamberlains, and after them the Wardens, and the Sword and great Mace Bearers, and the arresting Serjeants,

after them the Town Serjeant his, and lastly, the Cryer takes his oath, then the new Mayor (uncovered) goes to the old Mayor and Aldermen entreating their love and assistance, and then to the rest of the House, then to the Sheriffs, and Coroner, entreating their assistance, then the Chamberlains, Wardens, and the rest of the officers, requiring their pains and services according to their oaths and places; and if the new Mayor is so disposed, he goeth to the square table and maketh his speech to the people; then the Cryer bids avoid the Hall and all go to the said Church to the sermon, where both Mayors sit together.

“ Old Mrs. Mayoress attended by the Sheriffs’ and other Officers’ wives, cometh to the new Mayor’s house, and they fetch new Mrs. Mayoress to that Church (the new Mayoress having the right hand place), being attended by the Town Serjeant, after he hath taken his oath.

“ If all Saints Day happen to be on the Sabbath day, then the old Mayor, attended by the Livery, and his Officers and his Serjeants, come to the said Church, and the new Mayor attended by the Livery and his Waiters, come also to the said Church, and after the first lesson they all go to St. Mary’s Hall, and there take oath, as is mentioned before, and then return to the said Church; and after sermon, both the Mayors and Livery, and new Officers, go to the new Mayor’s house, where both the Mayors and the

Officers dine together; after dinner, the Livery and new Officers attended the new Mayor to Church and home again.

“The feast is kept on the Tuesday following in St. Mary’s Hall; on that Tuesday morning, the old Mayor’s company attend on him to the said Church from his house, with his Officers, viz. old Sheriffs, Chamberlains, and Wardens, and the new Mayor attended by his company, and the Livery and Serjeants with the sword and mace, come to the said Church (both Mayors sitting together), and after sermon they go to St. Mary’s Hall to dinner; after dinner they all bring the new Mayor home, and after the banquet the Serjeants go bare-headed (leaving the sword and mace at the new Mayor’s house) before the old Mayor, from the new Mayor’s house to the old Mayor’s house.”

REMARKABLE CLOCK,

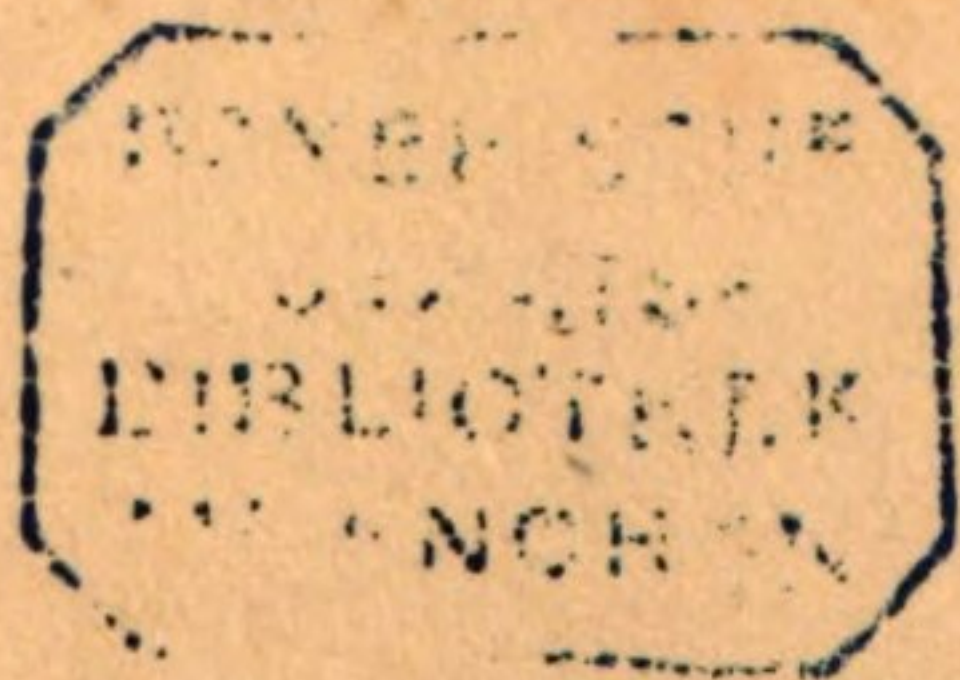
*Made by a Mr. Watson, of Coventry, about 1689,
and thus described by Mr. H. Wanley, in his Diary,
preserved in the Harleian Library.*

“IN the front of the work, a square of 20 inches broad, there are placed four larger dial plates, and one lesser in the middle. First plate shews the degrees of terrestrial longitude, and the twenty-four hours of the natural day; on the Eastern and Western sides of this are two laminæ, shewing the rising and setting of the celestial signs and planets, and the ark they make above and below the horizon. Within these are placed on an orb of silver (of which matter the forementioned parts are) the signs of the Zodiac, with their degrees computed from the vernal equinox; and within this, on an azure coloured orb, is shewn the difference between the natural and artificial signs, the signs here, as they are computed from the first star of Aries, and the principal fixed stars in and about the Zodiac, are depicted hereon, and have a diurnal motion, whereas the artificial and natural signs have a difference of motion amounting about one degree in one hundred years (which some attribute to the motion of the fixed stars, others to the precession of the

Equinox), and this difference is likewise in the work. Within these are represented the planets Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Sol, Venus, and Mercury, having their astronomical characters affixed to them in their several orbs; shewing not only their diurnal and middle, but also their other proper motions, whether they be direct, stationary, or retrograde; their apogæons, perigæons, elongations, and aspects, &c. Second plate represents the phenomena of the Moon, for which purpose there are placed the terrestrial longitude, the hours of the natural day, and the two laminæ for the rising and setting of the stars, and the artificial signs of the Zodiac, as in the first. Within, are placed in their proper longitude, several other remarkable stars, which are more remote from the Ecliptic than those in the former table. Next to these is placed the sun, in his orb, the better to shew the aspects with the moon; and then follow two circles, the one representing the Ecliptic, the other the orb of the moon, and both together shewing the lunar nodes and latitude; and within these is a figure of the moon, having the hemisphere next the sun illuminated, then her diurnal, middle, and other proper motions; her apogæon, and perigæon, &c. By these plates may be known also when any eclipse happens, what part of the earth it is visible in, its duration, and whether it be total or partial. But to represent all the uses and speculations which they are serviceable to, would require a just treatise, &c.

The other plates shew the Epact, the Dominical Letter, the Golden Number, the Cycle of the Sun, and the Indiction, which three last are the characteristics of the Julian period, and are never the same in 7980 years. They also shew the day of the month throughout the year, without any alteration of the Index in Leap Year; the day of the week, with its primary planet, and the hour of the day and night, computed from 12 to 12. It is to be noted that the machine need be wound up but once in eight days; and if at any time it happen by neglect of drawing up to stand still, it is easily set to the present time, for the whole is so contrived, that by the help of a key it is moveable for any number of months, or years, either backward or forward, presenting to the eye the forementioned phenomena, happening in that space of time, and then being turned to the present year, month, or day and hour, keeps the time for the future, so that by one motion the whole is set right. The work is so composed, that the author can easily adapt it to any longitude or latitude whatsoever."

FINIS.



**DIRECTIONS
FOR PLACING THE CUTS.**

St. Michael's Church to face the title-page.

White Friars, page 168.

St. Mary's Hall, page 181.

Cross, page 227.

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The History and Antiquities of the City of Coventry from the Earliest authentic Period to the present Time ; comprehending a Description of the Antiquities, Public Buildings, remarkable Occurrences ... ; Embellished with Engravings

Coventry [1810]

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